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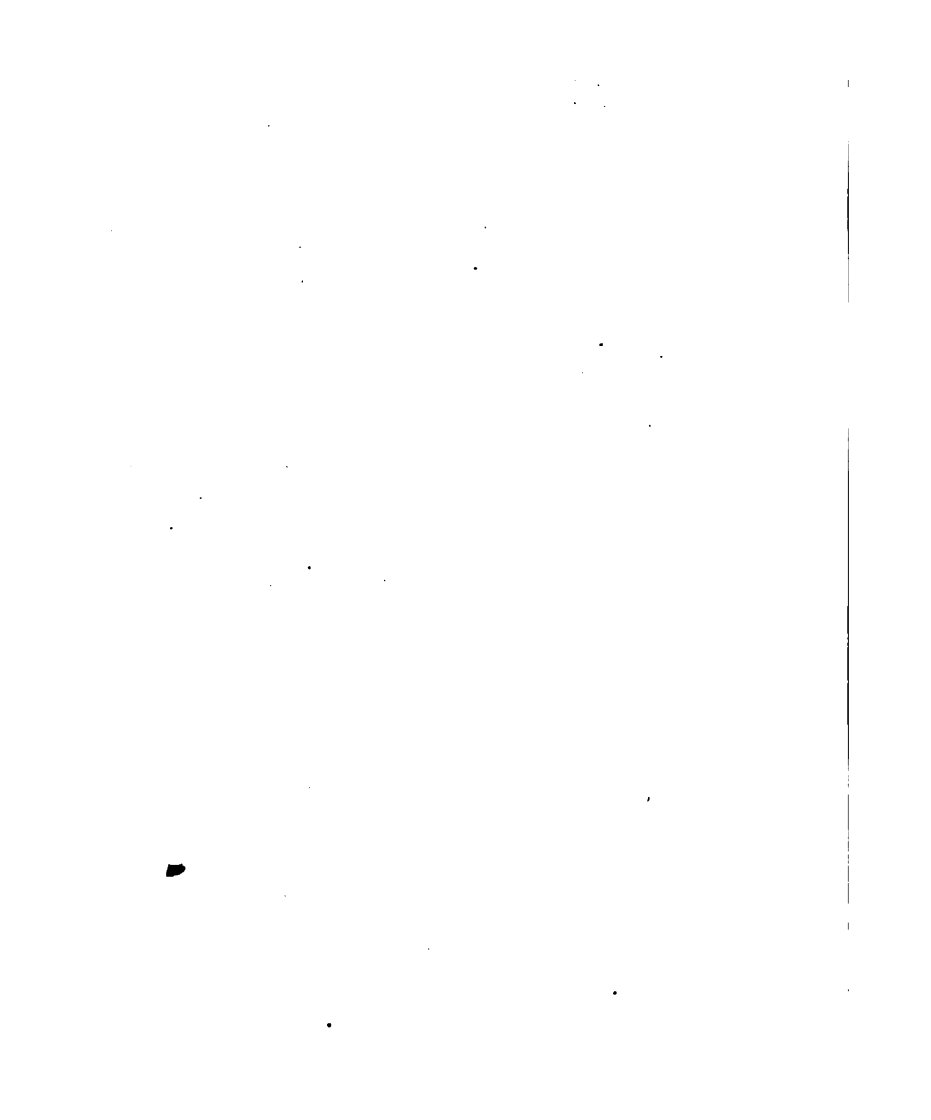
The course pursued differs from that usually adopted, both in *arrangement* and *treatment*. Seeing that, as a rule, *districts*, like *countries*, have natural limits and common phenomena, these have been accepted as supplying the best basis of arrangement. Instead of traversing the country for examples of capes, bays, rivers, &c., each district is at once treated in detail, so that the connection between its natural resources and its political condition is plainly seen.

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To be fairly mastered, the book should be read *twice*; the first reading should be elucidated by *oral* questions, while a series for *written* answers are supplied to follow the second reading.

LIST OF SUBJECTS.

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GEOGRAPHICAL READING BOOK.—PART II.

LESSON I.

THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

THE *empire* which takes its name from the island of *Great Britain*, is so large and wide-spread, that it is said that the sun never sets upon British soil.

The *British Isles* lie to the west of Europe, and consist of Great Britain and Ireland, together with a large number of smaller islands. The *home* territory is much smaller than some other European countries, yet the *empire*, of which it is the centre, extends over all parts of the world.

On the *continent of Europe* the strong fort of *Gibraltar* belongs to the British crown, as also does the valuable island of *Malta* in the Mediterranean, and *Heligoland* in the North Sea; while the *Ionian Isles*, near Greece, are under its control and protection.

In *Africa* our British dominions consist of the Cape colony, and several smaller settlements on the coasts.

In *Asia* the large peninsula of *Hindustan*, with its

150 millions of people, forms a most important part of the British dependencies. We hold also the town of *Aden*, in Arabia, and *Hong Kong*, in China.

In *North America* we hold *Canada New Brunswick, Nova Scotia*, and some less important possessions : and in *South America*, British Guiana and Honduras ; as well as Jamaica, Antigua, Trinidad, and some smaller islands in the *West Indies*.

The large island of *Australia* forms part of the British Empire ; as does also *Tasmania, New Zealand*, and many hundreds of islands in the Pacific Ocean.

This vast Empire, containing altogether eight millions of square miles, and a population of 200 millions, has not attained its present dimensions by a single act, but is the gradual growth of many centuries.

In early Norman times, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland were independent kingdoms ; Africa and Asia owned no European masters, and America was to us unknown. In course of time, Wales and Ireland fell under the same rule as England, and at a still later period Scotland was joined to Southern Britain ; while, during the last three centuries, the inhabitants of these islands have founded large and flourishing colonies in America, Africa, and Australia. Our vast territories in India have been acquired at various times, and mainly by

conquest ; while Cape Colony, Canada, and Gibraltar, have been obtained either by conquest or treaty.

The inhabitants of this large empire vary in race, language, religion, and modes of life ; yet the governing power for all is vested in the British Crown : and in all parts the English language is more or less spoken. The great extent of the British dominions, including every variety of climate and natural production, fosters its commerce, and so contributes to its power and wealth.

Great Britain extends nearly 600 miles from north to south ; while its breadth varies from 250 miles in its widest or southern part, to about fifty miles in the north. The coast is very irregular, having many large bays and inlets, especially on its western side.

The *surface* is very varied. In the north there are mountain ranges, with elevations exceeding 4,000 feet in height ; the central and southern part is mainly characterised by gentle elevations of hill and dale, while near the eastern coast there are extensive plains and marshes.

In Scotland the *Grampians* stretch for nearly 100 miles across the country, and the whole district consists of a succession of mountain heights and elevated moorlands, known as the *Highlands*. In the *southern*

part of Scotland there is another mountain district, called the *Cheviot* region, which extends from the Tweed to the English border.

From the Cheviots branch off the *Pennine* range, which extends to Derbyshire; which, with a group of mountains in Cumberland and Westmoreland, contains the greatest heights in England, some of which are above 3,000 feet high. Wales also consists chiefly of a succession of mountains, intersected here and there by deep and narrow valleys.

In the north of Devon and Somerset there is an extensive elevated plain, known as *Exmoor*; while a little farther south *Dartmoor* rises to about the same height. In the west there are also the shorter ranges of hills known as the Mendip, the Malvern, and the Cotswold hills.

The chief elevations being toward the west, these parts receive most rain, and hence numerous streams are formed; and as the largest extent of country lies towards the east, the streams which flow in that direction unite and form the longest and most navigable rivers, of which the *Thames* is the most important.

LESSON II.

BASIN OF THE THAMES.

Counties included:—**Gloucester*, OXFORD, WILTS,
BERKS, BUCKINGHAM, HERTFORD, MIDDLESEX, ESSEX,
SURREY, and KENT. Area, 6,000 square miles.

THE *Thames* is the most important river of Great Britain: it has an easterly course of about 210 miles, and discharges itself by a fine estuary into the North Sea. The *basin* of this river, that is, the land drained by it and its tributaries, contains upwards of 6,000 square miles. The principal sources of the Thames are in Gloucestershire: the Churn, Coln, and Leach, rise on the eastern slopes of the Cotswold hills, these streams unite with the Isis at Lechlade, from which point the united waters form a county boundary.

It first flows between Oxfordshire and Berkshire, then between Buckinghamshire and the eastern part of Berks, it then divides Middlesex and Surrey, and afterwards Essex and Kent.

The small streams which form the sources of the Thames have a strong and rapid current, but from

* In this and subsequent lessons, the counties printed in small capitals are either wholly or mainly included in the river basin under consideration, and are therefore treated in detail; while the others are reserved for treatment elsewhere.

Lechlade to its mouth at the Nore, the current is full yet gentle, having a fall of about 260 feet. The mouth is wide and navigable, so that the largest vessels go up the river as far as London, a distance of nearly fifty miles : and it is navigable for barges as high as Lechlade. No other river in the world possesses so many advantages for commerce as the Thames.

The *basin* of this river forms one of the most valuable *agricultural* districts in the whole kingdom ; producing large quantities of grain and other crops, as well as supplying rich pasture for cattle. This arises partly from the varied character of the soil, which, in most parts, contains all the elements necessary for the production of the most useful crops ; while the great attention paid to farming, and the abundant supply of manure, have greatly increased its fertility. As neither coal nor any of the metals are found in large quantities in this basin, the district is not a manufacturing one ; London being the only place in which any *extensive* manufactures are carried on, and these are such as depend least upon *coal*.

Two streams claim the parentage of the Thames : they are about sixteen miles apart, one is called *Thames Head*, and the other *Seven Springs*. The latter, on account of its greater distance from the

mouth of the river, as well as from its superior size, is now generally considered its true source.

The *Seven Springs* rise near Cheltenham, and uniting, form the Churn, which flows for about twenty miles through Gloucestershire. The water is clear, and for a few miles flows down the slopes of the Cotswold hills with a rather rapid current: and if, as we have already said, the river in its *maturity* is one of the most noble and useful, in its *infancy* it is one of the most charming.

The Cotswold hills, as their name implies, form an important sheep-feeding district. They divide the county of Gloucester into two parts, and form a watershed dividing the basin of the Thames from that of the Severn; the former including the eastern part of the county, and the latter the western. One or two of their summits exceed 1,000 feet in height, but their general elevation is not more than about seven or eight hundred feet. The Cotswold breed of sheep was long noted for supplying good mutton as well as wool.

The *Windrush* and *Evenlode* also rise in this county, and become tributary to the Thames. The *Isis*, another rather important tributary rises in Wiltshire, and after a course of twenty-five miles joins the Coln,

and, receiving the waters of the Leach, the united streams become navigable for barges.

Of the towns in Gloucestershire coming within the range of this lesson, *Cirencester* is the most noteworthy. It contains about 6,000 inhabitants, and was of great importance in the time of the Romans. Remains of Roman buildings are still found in great abundance.

Stroud, in the neighbourhood of which a quantity of broadcloth is manufactured, as well as *Tetbury*, *Lechlade*, and *Minchinhampton*, are other market towns of this county.

LESSON III.

BASIN OF THE THAMES CONTINUED.

THE most important tributaries of the Thames which flow through *Oxfordshire*, are the *Windrush*, *Evenlode*, *Cherwell*, and *Thame*. The largest of these is the *Cherwell*, which rises in *Northamptonshire*, and flowing southwards joins the main stream at *Oxford*. The *Thame*, a much smaller stream, flows first through the fertile vale of *Aylesbury*, in *Buckinghamshire*, and afterwards through the eastern part of *Oxon*, receiving the waters from the western slopes of the *Chiltern* hills,

which extend from Berkshire and cross this part of the county. The *county* of Oxford is mainly agricultural. The only manufacturing towns of any note are *Witney* and *Woodstock*; blankets being made at the former, and gloves at the latter. The middle part of the county consists of a light sand or gravel, and is the least fertile. In the north, the soil consists of a deep and rich loam, where good crops of barley, wheat, and turnips, are raised.

Banbury, on the Cherwell, is the principal town of this district: it has a large corn market; and the cakes made here are well known. The valleys of the south contain good pasturage, and in them dairy husbandry is practised with skill and economy.

Oxford is by far the most noted city of this county. Its university contains nineteen colleges, and is one of the most ancient in Europe.

More than a thousand years ago the schools of Oxford were among the foremost in the land, having received aid and encouragement from our good Saxon king, Alfred; and from that time to the present, many of our best scholars have been educated here.

The main streets of Oxford are wide; and from the large number of its colleges, halls, churches, libraries,

and other public buildings, it is one of the most handsome and interesting cities in the kingdom.

The great council of the nation was frequently held in Oxford: and it was the scene of many important acts in the contest between Maud and Stephen, as well as in the later conflicts between Charles I. and the Parliament.

About nine miles from Oxford is the manor of Woodstock, which was granted, in the reign of Queen Anne, to the Duke of Marlborough, for his victories over the armies of France and Bavaria.

The greater part of *Wiltshire* consists of elevated plains. *Marlborough Downs* extend along the northern part of the county, while *Salisbury Plain* occupies a large tract in the south.

It forms part of the extensive chalk formation which stretches in a forked direction from Weymouth to the coast of Norfolk in one direction, and to the eastern coast of Kent in the other. The *north* of this county is noted for its dairy produce, and large flocks of sheep are fed on the extensive downs of the south.

The *Kennet* is the most important tributary of the Thames in Wilts, and from it to the *Bristol Avon* a canal has been cut, forming a medium of communication between London and Bristol. Salisbury Plain is

intersected by many vales, through which a number of streams flow. The Willey and Nadder unite and form the southern Avon, which flows into the English Channel.

Wiltshire is comparatively thinly inhabited : its manufactures are carpets, carried on at Wilton, and of woollen cloth, at Trowbridge, Bradford, Westbury, and some smaller towns.

In the time of the ancient Britons this county was noted for its idolatrous services ; Stonehenge, on Salisbury Plain, and Avebury, still mark where such services took place. Under the Saxons, the abbey of Malmesbury became one of the richest in the kingdom ; and to William, one of its abbots, we are indebted for much of our early English history.

Salisbury, the county town, formerly carried on a large woollen trade, but this has of late fallen off. The cathedral, said to be the most complete in our country, has a spire 404 feet high.

Devizes is a pretty town near the centre of the county, and its market for corn and dairy produce is much frequented. *Chippenham* is a thriving town ; and *Swindon* owes its prosperity to the Great Western Railway.

The county of *Berkshire* stretches from east to west on the southern bank of the Thames, and, like Wiltshire,

is mainly dependent upon its agricultural produce. On the Marlborough Downs, which extend into this county, the Saxons, under Ethelred and Alfred, obtained a great victory over the Danes, to commemorate which they cut out the turf from the hill side in the shape of a large horse, so that the white chalk shows itself for many miles round, and tells the traveller along the "Great Western" now, as it did the Danes of old, of this great Saxon victory.

The *Ock*, a small tributary of the Thames, flows through the fertile "vale of the White Horse." The *Kennet* traverses the county, having the town of *Newbury* on its banks; and near its junction with the Thames, *Reading*, a rapidly rising town: both of which took part in the Civil Wars of the reign of Charles I.

Windsor, now the favourite residence of our beloved Queen, is beautifully situated on the Thames, and was originally surrounded by a forest 120 miles in circuit. The castle has existed from the time of Henry I., and was formerly as noted for its *strength* as it is now for its beauty and extent.

Abingdon contains the ruins of a once celebrated abbey; *Wallingford*, anciently a large and flourishing city; *Wantage*, the birthplace of Alfred the Great; and *Maidenhead*, are all deserving of attention.

LESSON IV.

BASIN OF THE THAMES CONCLUDED.

THE county of *Buckingham*, through which the *Thame* and *Colne* flow, is mainly agricultural, having a small but equally distributed population. The women and children make lace and straw-plait.

Buckingham is generally considered the county town, although less populous than *Aylesbury*. The *vale* of *Aylesbury*, through which the *Thame* flows, is a fine pasture and corn growing district, having to its north the extensive forest of *Brentwood*, and on its south the *Chiltern* hills.

High Wycombe is another market town of some importance. *Eton*, near *Windsor*, but on the opposite bank of the *Thames*, has long been noted for its college, founded in the reign of *Henry VI*.

Hertfordshire is very fertile, possessing all the essentials of a good corn growing county. Most of its streams are tributary to the *Thames*. In the east the *Stort* joins the *Lea*, while the *Ver* falls into the *Coln*. The most elevated land of the county is toward the north, which forms part of the *East Anglian* heights.

Hertford, on the *Lea*, is pleasantly situated, and was the occasional residence of *Queen Elizabeth*. Histo-

rically, *St. Albans* is a town of great note, having been the seat of government of Cassivelaunus, the *British* chief. The *Romans* occupied it and called it *Verulam*; some four or five hundred years later, the Saxons called it by its present name. Its fine old abbey is now used as a parish church.

Berkhampstead, the birthplace of Cowper, *Bishop's Stortford*, *Hitchin*, and *Hatfield*, are also towns in this county; chiefly connected with agriculture and malting.

We now come to *Middlesex*, which, with the exception of Rutland, is the smallest county of England, while in population it is second only to Lancashire. In addition to the *Lea* and the *Coln*, which form its eastern and western boundaries, the *Brent* traverses the county, dividing it into two nearly equal parts.

The land is very fertile, and forms part of a large basin consisting of the later earthy deposits known as the *tertiary* formations. In many parts clay is abundant, and hence *brick* forms the most common material for building purposes.

London, the capital of the empire, is admirably situated for health and commerce, and contains a population of nearly 2,500,000. This city has, from the time of the Romans, gradually risen in importance; and *now* far outstrips every other city in the world in

population, wealth, and commercial importance. The Thames affords an opening whereby the ports of the whole world are open to the merchant ships of London. Its *docks* are of vast extent ; yet the trade of the port is constantly overgrowing its accommodation.

Until the reign of Charles II. the city of London was very close and illbuilt ; but after the great fire in 1666, its streets were greatly widened, and the city generally much improved. St. Paul's Cathedral was rebuilt at that time by Sir C. Wren. Westminster Abbey is the finest of its *ancient* Gothic structures, while the *new* Westminster Palace rivals it for its fine general proportions and rich details.

London contains also Buckingham Palace, the town residence of our Sovereign, the Tower, University and King's College, several parks and gardens, together with many hospitals, bridges, museums, churches, chapels, and other public buildings.

London has absorbed a large number of villages which once surrounded it. *Brentford*, the county town, has almost become a part of the metropolis, though distant ten miles from the Royal Exchange. *Staines* and *Uxbridge* are market towns in this county.

The Thames forms the boundary between Middlesex and *Surrey*. *Southwark*, now an important suburb of

London, being in the latter county. The *Wey*, *Mole*, and *Wardle*, are the principal tributaries of the Thames in this county. Toward the south are the Downs, which have some hills of considerable elevation. The district about *Farnham* is noted for its hops.

Guildford, on the *Wey*, is an ancient and prettily situated town, having some ruins of an old castle. *Croydon*, *Kingston-on-Thames*, and *Chertsey*, are other towns having much of interest connected with their history: while *Runnymede*, where King John signed the *Magna Charta*, is near *Egham*, in *Surrey*.

ESSEX is generally a low and level county. Its only elevations consist of *Epping Forest* and the *Essex heights*. The wheat of *Essex* is fine, and is produced in large quantities. The *Roding*, which flows into the Thames, and the *Colne*, *Blackwater*, *Chelmer*, and *Crouch*, which fall into the German Ocean, are its chief streams.

Chelmsford is the county town, but must yield to *Colchester*, not only in population and trade, but also in historical interest. *Harwich*, *Waltham*, and *Barking*, are the remaining towns of most note.

On the opposite bank of the Thames is *Kent*, a county abounding in rich scenery and historical associations. It is traversed from east to west by

two ranges of hills, the *North Downs* and the *Wealden Heights*, which come to an abrupt termination in the chalk cliffs of *Dover*. The *Darent* and *Medway* belong to this county, and discharge themselves into the Thames. The latter flows through a district noted for its hops and cherries.

Canterbury, on the *Stour*, is the county town, and the ecclesiastical capital of the kingdom : its cathedral, where Thomas à Becket was murdered, is a very fine ancient edifice. *Rochester* is another ancient city of this county, and possesses, in addition to its cathedral, the remains of a fine old feudal castle. Adjoining it is *Chatham*, a large naval station ; *Sheerness*, in the isle of Sheppy, with *Woolwich* and *Deptford*, on the Thames, are also engaged in connexion with the royal navy. *Greenwich* Hospital, once a royal palace, now forms a noble asylum for disabled sailors. *Maidstone*, on the *Medway*, is a neat town, surrounded by orchards and hop gardens.

LESSON V.

BASIN OF THE SEVERN.

Counties included :—*Montgomery, SALOP, WORCESTER, WARWICK, Gloucester, Radnor, HEREFORD, MONMOUTH, SOMERSET, Brecknock, and Glamorgan.*

Area, 11,600 square miles.

THE river *Severn*, the *Sabrina* of the Romans, rises on the eastern side of *Plynlimmon*, in *Montgomeryshire*, at an elevation of 2,500 feet above the sea level. Its course is very varied ; first being south-east, then north-east : on entering Shropshire it turns south-east, changing to south, and finally, with a south-westerly course, it gradually merges into the *Bristol Channel*, after a course of 240 miles.

The tide in this river rises to a remarkable height, and rushing in with great force, it forms a head or bore some five or six feet high. At *Kingroad*, where it receives the *Lower Avon*, the tide rises forty-eight feet ; and at *Chepstow*, on the *Wye*, it sometimes amounts to sixty feet. The Severn is navigable for barges to *Welshpool*, a distance of about 180 miles, and for ships of three or four hundred tons burthen, as far as Gloucester. A canal, however, has been cut from near

Berkeley to *Gloucester*, to avoid the difficulties in the navigation of the river itself.

In Wales a large portion of this river basin consists of slaty rocks, but in England the old and new red sandstones prevail, in which are some valuable coal fields, with beds of ironstone, lead, and other useful minerals. The people vary much in their occupations. The mountainous district supports a *mining* and *pastoral* population; the open vales of its later course form a rich *agricultural* district; while the towns on its fine open estuary are admirably situated for *commerce*: at the same time the abundance of sand and limestone throughout the district, supplies good material for building purposes.

In its early course, the Severn, which is still known by its British name of the *Hafren*, flows with a strong rapid current through a succession of valleys, but after entering SHROPSHIRE it becomes more open and regular in its course. Its waters are largely charged with mud and sand, much of which is deposited in the Bristol Channel. The Severn divides *Shropshire* into two parts; that on the north-east being generally level, broken only by the Wrekin, a mountain rising to a height of 1,300 feet; while the south-western part consists of a succession of hills and mountains.

Shrewsbury, the county town, is on the Severn, and, like most of the border towns of Wales, contains the remains of a strong and celebrated castle. Its ancient Abbey Church and Guild House have some fine sculpture. Shrewsbury manufactures thread, linen and iron goods. Several important conflicts have taken place near the city. In 1403, Harry Hotspur was defeated and killed by the army under Henry IV.

The Severn flows through *Colebrookdale*, a small but important coal field, the inhabitants of which are largely engaged in the manufacture of iron goods. It then receives, on its left bank, the Perry, the Roden, and the Tern; and a little below their junction stands the town of *Bridgenorth*; while *Oswestry* and *Ellesmere* in the north, and *Ludlow* in the south, are the remaining most important towns of this county. In the south-west, a number of streams, from the *Wenlock Edge* and some other ranges of hills, unite to form the *Teme*, which finally joins the Severn in the county of *Worcester*.

The *vale* of the Severn traverses *Worcestershire* from north to south, and is noted for its great fertility; it abounds in apple and pear orchards, hop gardens, and contains also good corn and pasture land. The *Malvern* hills, on the west, are upwards of 1,400

feet in height : the town of *Great Malvern*, on one of their slopes, being much frequented by invalids, on account of its mineral springs, and the bracing character of its air. In the extreme north, the *Stour* joins the main river. Its course is short ; but the valley through which it flows is noted for its extensive mining and smelting operations : the detached town of *Dudley* being the most important of the district. *Stourport* is situated at the junction of the *Stour* with the *Severn*.

Worcester, the county town, is a very ancient city. Its cathedral is a fine specimen of Gothic architecture. It still carries on the manufacture of gloves, but is now becoming more celebrated for the manufacture of fine porcelain goods.

At *Droitwich*, in this county, are extensive salt works : large quantities of this useful mineral being obtained from the brine springs of the neighbourhood. *Bromsgrove*, where iron goods are made, and *Kidderminster*, noted for its carpets, are also in this county.

On the south-east, the *vale* of *Evesham* joins that of *Worcester* : through it flows the *Upper*, or *Classic Avon*, having on its banks *Stratford*, the birthplace of our great national poet, *Shakespeare*. This stream, which

is the most important tributary on the left bank of the Severn, rises in the central table-land of Northamptonshire, and flowing through Warwickshire, unites with the main river at *Teikesbury*.

LESSON VI.

BASIN OF THE SEVERN CONCLUDED.

Warwickshire is divided into two parts by the Avon, the larger or northern part consists mainly of the new red sandstone, and contains the somewhat elevated forest of Arden ; while the range of Edge Hill, the scene of the first battle between Charles and his Parliament, forms its southern boundary.

The county town, *Warwick*, is mainly celebrated for its castle, which is one of the finest baronial residences that has existed from the time of the Normans. *Birmingham* is by far the most important town, having a population of about 230,000, mainly engaged in the manufacture of fire-arms, iron and plated goods. *Soho*, near this town, is noted for its manufacture of steam-engines. Birmingham is supplied with coal from the neighbouring coal fields of Dudley and Warwick.

Coventry is an ancient town of great interest, and

manufactures ribbons and watches. Midway between Coventry and Warwick, is *Kenilworth*, famed for its ancient castle, which was granted by Queen Elizabeth to the Earl of Leicester, but is now a mere pile of ruins.

In this county we have also *Leamington*, a fashionable watering place, and *Rugby*, noted for its famous public school, which, under the late Dr. Arnold, earned so high a character.

The Severn, having received the waters of the Avon, enters *Gloucestershire* at *Tewkesbury*, and flows through a fine arable and meadow district, known as the *vale* of Gloucester. On the west is the *Forest of Dean*, anciently of great value on account of its timber, but now of far more account for its coal and ironstone.

The small stream, the Chelt, upon which stands the rapidly growing and fashionable town of *Cheltenham*, joins the Severn on its left bank, and a little below their junction we have the ancient city of *Gloucester*, whose cathedral is one of the most elegant in the kingdom. The city is very ancient, and has a good trade in corn and timber. *Stroud*, *Dursley*, and some other towns of this county, manufacture woollen cloth, and near them is *Berkeley*, where Edward II. was murdered.

Bristol is by far the largest city in the county,

having a population of 150,000, engaged mainly in commerce and manufactures; the most important of the latter being those for soap, brass goods, leather, refined sugar, ships, and machinery. This ancient city is situated on the *Lower Avon*, which here flows through a large chasm in the hard limestone rocks, and renders *Clifton*, a modern suburb of the city, so noted for its picturesque scenery. The neighbourhood is rich in mineral productions; coal, iron, and lead, being obtained in several parts.

The most important tributary of the Severn is the *Wye*, a river so abounding in fine scenery as to deserve the title of "the British Rhine." It rises in Plynlimmon, and has a very circuitous course towards the south-west: after forming a county boundary between Radnor and Brecknock, it enters *Herefordshire*, where it receives the Arrow and the Lug. This county, like Worcester, abounds in orchards and hop gardens. The county town is *Hereford*, an ancient and pretty city on the Wye, having a large market for agricultural produce. The neighbouring town of *Ross*, beautifully situated on the same river, is more celebrated for the good deeds of "The Man of Ross," than for aught else. *Leominster* is also a large market town.

The *Monnow* falls into the Wye at Monmouth, in

the castle of which town Henry V. was born, but it is now little better than a ruin : but the fine river-views from this town to Chepstow, at its mouth, retain all their beauty. The castle of Chepstow, formerly the stronghold of Strongbow, Earl of Pembroke, is a good sample of the castles of the feudal barons of the olden time.

The county of *Monmouth* is divided into two parts by the *Usk*, another tributary of the Severn : on the east is a rich agricultural district ; while on the west it has one of the largest and most valuable coal fields in the world, including not only the western part of this county, but also the greater part of *Glamorganshire*. This district supplies also vast quantities of iron ore ; and here, within the last century, the largest iron-smelting works in the world have rapidly sprung up.

Merthyr Tydvil, on the borders of Glamorganshire, is the most important centre of this district ; but *Pontypool*, *Blaina*, *Ebbw-Vale*, and many other places, are rapidly increasing in population and importance.

Newport, at the mouth of the *Usk*, and *Cardiff*, at the mouth of the *Taff*, are ports of considerable trade for export of coal and iron. The docks at the latter place are very extensive and complete.

Somersetshire, which forms the southern boundary of the estuary of the Severn, is a large and rich agricultural county. It is traversed by several ranges of hills; the *Mendip*, *Polder*, and *Quantock* hills, together with the table-land of *Exmoor*, having the greatest elevation. It is rich in metals, supplying lead, iron, zinc: and coal is raised in the northern part of the county, which forms part of the *Bristol coal fields*.

Bath has been noted from the time of the Romans for its warm mineral springs, and is still a fine and well-built town surrounded by beautiful hills. The city of *Wells* also boasts a cathedral both ancient and of great beauty. The neighbouring town of *Glastonbury* contains also the ruins of one of the largest and richest abbeys in Saxon times.

Taunton and *Wellington*, both of which are on the Tone, manufacture some silk and woollen goods: while *Bridgwater*, on the Parret, is a town of considerable trade. Between the mouths of the Parret and the Taff are the Steep and Flat Holms or Islands; the water to the east of which belongs to the Severn, while that to the west forms the Bristol Channel.

LESSON VII.

THE SOUTHERN COAST COUNTIES.

Kent, SUSSEX, HAMPSHIRE, DORSETSHIRE, DEVON, CORNWALL.
Area, 8,000 square miles.

THE coast of *Kent* consists mainly of chalk cliffs, which rise near Dover to a height of above 500 feet. The principal headlands are the *North* and *South Foreland*, and *Dungeness*. At *Deal*, where the Romans first landed, the beach is open, and the cliffs much less precipitous. The channel between the English and French coasts here narrows into the *Straits of Dover*, which is little more than twenty miles broad.

A large part of *Sussex* consists of clay, sand, and limestone lands, and is known as the *Weald of Sussex*. The chalky *South Downs*, however, stretch through the south-western part of the county. The main industrial occupation of the people is agriculture. In former times *Sussex* was noted for its extensive iron works, but these, owing to the absence of coal, have entirely disappeared. *Lewes*, the county town, was *then* largely engaged in the manufacture of cannons; it *now* manufactures paper. In 1264, Henry III. was defeated by De Montford near this town.

Hastings, on the coast, formed one of the *Cinque* or

five principal ports on the southern coast ; the others were *Sandwich*, *Dover*, *Hythe*, and *Romney*, all of which are in Kent. It was near Hastings that William the Conqueror landed with his Norman army, and at *Battle* he defeated Harold and his Saxon followers.

Chichester and *Arundel* are both ancient towns *Brighton*, though a century ago but a small fishing town, is now a populous sea-side resort ; and *Shoreham* is a place of considerable trade. The *Rother*, *Ouse*, and *Arun*, are the principal rivers of this county.

The coast of *Hampshire* is less regular than that of *Sussex*, its chief inlets being *Portsmouth Harbour* and the *Southampton Water*. The *Isle of Wight*, which, from its great beauty and fertility, is often termed the "Garden of England," lies off the coast of *Hampshire*, and has a most genial climate. On these accounts Her Majesty has made *Osborne House*, on the north coast, one of her summer residences. The channel between this island and the main land is known as the *Solent* : its eastern part, *Spithead*, forms an excellent roadstead, and is one of the chief stations for the royal navy. *St. Catherine's Point*, in the Isle of Wight, is the principal cape.

Winchester, on the *Itchen*, was formerly the second city in the kingdom. Its cathedral, and the hospital

of St. Cross, show both the skill and liberality of their early founders.

Southampton is now one of the leading ports of the country. It is the principal station of the packets trading with the Mediterranean. *Portsmouth*, with *Portsea*, is the largest naval port of the empire. *Newport* is the principal town in the Isle of Wight; but *East* and *West Cowes*, *Ryde*, and *Ventnor*, are rapidly increasing in size and importance.

A large part of Hampshire was formerly forest land, and much of it is poor and unproductive.

Dorsetshire contains a great variety of minerals. The *Portland* and *Purbeck stones* of the south are good building stones; while on the north the soil is rich in agricultural produce. Off the coast fisheries for mackerel and turbot are carried on.

The county town, *Dorchester*, on the *Frome*, is a small but ancient town. *Poole* and *Weymouth* are the principal ports. *Lyme Regis* is noted for the fossils found in its neighbourhood. *Bridport* manufactures twine, fishing-nets, and sail-cloth; *Wareham*, straw-plait and stockings: while *Shaftesbury* and *Sherborne* are the principal inland towns.

Devonshire is one of the largest and most beautiful counties of England: like Cornwall, it has the Bristol

Channel on the north, and the English Channel on the south. Its most southern cape is *Start Point*. It has some excellent bays and harbours ; and its rivers, the *Exe*, *Teign*, and *Dart*, though not of great length, are noted for their rich and varied scenery.

Exmoor, on the north-east, and *Dartmoor*, on the south-west, are large elevated plains, consisting in large part of heath and bog. Iron, and some silver and copper, are obtained in the county, while the marbles of the south are fine and varied.

Exeter, on the Exe, is a fine and ancient city : its cathedral is an object of great beauty. *Honiton* is situated in a fertile vale, and is the centre of a lace-making district. *Tiverton* is a still larger town, engaged in the same manufacture. *Teignmouth* and *Torquay* are much resorted to by invalids, on account of the mildness of their climate. *Brixham* is an important fishing town, exporting large quantities of herrings, pilchards, and many kinds of flat fish.

The largest port is *Plymouth*, whose Sound or harbour is large enough for a whole fleet of ships to anchor in safety. The adjoining town of *Devonport* has large stores for the supply of the royal navy. *Barnstaple*, *Bideford*, and *Ilfracombe*, are in the northern part of the county.

The coast of *Cornwall* is steep and rocky, but contains the safe and capacious harbour of *Falmouth*, the trade of which is extensive. *Penzance*, on *Mount's Bay*, is also a good port, and the air is remarkably mild. *St. Ives* and *Padstow* are the principal towns on the northern coast of Cornwall, the former being the largest fishing town in the county.

The river *Tamar*, which divides Devon and Cornwall, drains the *Devonian range* and *Cornish heights*, and upon it stands the county town, *Launceston*.

This county consists in large part of granite and other primary rocks, and rich veins of tin and copper ore abound. Hence, mining operations are largely carried on ; in fact, but for its mineral wealth, Cornwall would be a poor county. *Truro*, *Redruth*, *Hayle*, and other western towns, are mainly engaged in mining operations ; while *St. Austle*, *Liskeard*, and *Bodmin*, are market towns of some note.

The *Lizard* is the most southern cape of England, while the *Land's End* is the most western ; to the west of which are the *Scilly Isles*, so famous in ancient times for their supply of tin.

LESSON VIII.

BASIN OF THE GREAT OUSE.

Counties included :—NORTHAMPTON, BEDFORD, CAMBRIDGE, SUFFOLK, HUNTINGDON, and NORFOLK.

Area, 6,250 square miles.

THE *Great Ouse*, the *Nen*, and the *Welland*, all rise in Northamptonshire, and after draining the plain north and east of the central table-land, fall into the *Wash*. The *East Anglian heights* extend from the *Wash*, in a south-westerly direction, meeting the Chiltern hills in Hertfordshire. To the east of these the land is low and level, being drained by numerous small streams, which flow into the *North Sea*.

The western part of this district consists of beds of limestone, sandstone, and clay; in the central part the chalk predominates; while the plain near the coast consists of water-deposited sands, clay, and gravel. The Ouse, after rising in Northamptonshire, flows north-east through a part of Bucks, then traverses Bedford, Huntingdon, Cambridge, and the north-western part of Norfolk, when it falls into the *Wash* at *King's Lynn*. For about twenty miles, the water has been diverted from its original channel, and flows through the *New Bedford River*, which drains an extensive district known as the *Bedford Level*; this now

produces large crops of corn, but before the present system of drainage was commenced, in the reign of Charles II., this level was a large marsh or fen.

Northamptonshire is generally hilly, though it has no elevations exceeding eight hundred feet: it has many streams and rivers, all of which rise within its own boundary. It thus affords fine pasture land, and large numbers of sheep and horned cattle are fattened for the London and other markets. It has also some extensive wheat lands. Iron is found and worked, but in very small quantities.

In addition to farming operations, large quantities of boots and shoes are manufactured. *Northampton*, the county town, is the principal seat of this manufacture. *Wallingborough*, *Daventry*, *Towcester*, and many smaller towns, are similarly engaged: *Kettering* carries on an extensive wool trade. *Peterborough* is the see of a bishop, and contains a fine cathedral.

At *Naseby*, twelve miles from *Northampton*, the final battle was fought between Charles and Cromwell: and at *Fotheringay Castle*, in the north of the county, Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned, tried, and executed, by order of her cousin, Queen Elizabeth.

Bedford is a small county, lying to the south-west of *Northampton*. The *Vale of Bedford*, through which

the Ouse flows, consists of a rich clay soil, and produces fine wheat crops. The *Chiltern hills*, on the south of this county, divide the basin of the Thames from that of the Ouse.

Bedford is the capital, and most noteworthy town of the county. It stands on the Ouse : its castle dates from the time of William I. In the gaol of the town John Bunyan wrote his celebrated *Pilgrim's Progress*.

The manufactures are few and unimportant, consisting of pillow-lace, straw-plait, and shoes. The towns thus engaged are *Dunstable*, *Luton*, *Biggleswade*, *Leighton Buzzard*. *Woburn Abbey*, formerly a monastic establishment, is now the seat of the Duke of Bedford.

The county of *Huntingdon* is still smaller than Bedford, and is generally flat ; its eastern part forming part of the Bedford Level. Formerly it contained Whittlesea-mere, and two smaller lakes, but they have been drained, and now produce good crops of corn. The population is almost entirely devoted to farming operations. *Huntingdon* is noted as having given birth to Oliver Cromwell, in 1699 ; and at *St. Ives* he for some time resided.

Cambridgeshire is low and flat : its northern part is known as the *Isle of Ely*. It has no hills or woods, save toward its south-eastern border. Its principal

river is the *Cam*, a tributary of the Ouse, and on which stands the university town of *Cambridge*. Like Oxford, the schools of this city were celebrated even in Saxon times, and it has trained many of our greatest mathematicians and philosophers. The colleges and halls are mostly noble buildings, and add much to the beauty of the town. The city of *Ely* is famed for its elegant cathedral, which has lately been extensively repaired. *Newmarket*, *Royton*, and *Wisbeach*, are also considerable market towns.

Norfolk and *Suffolk* border on the North Sea. The coast line here has undergone great changes within known periods: *Suffolk* having lost and *Norfolk* gained large tracts of land.

Both counties are rich in agricultural produce, and can boast of skilful farming. Good crops of wheat, barley, and turnips, are raised: turkeys and geese are reared in large numbers; and *Suffolk* is noted for its breed of small but strong horses.

In the reign of Henry I. a party of *Flemings* fled to England from the persecutions of Charles V. They set up at *Norwich* the manufacture of woollen goods, and gave name to the village of *Worsted*, on account of the woollen thread which they manufactured.

Norwich still manufactures shawls, crape, and other

articles from wool and silk. It stands at the junction of the rivers *Wensum* and *Yare*. The cathedral is much admired for its architectural beauty.

Yarmouth, on the *Yare*, is the largest port in the county; its trade mainly depends upon its herring fishery. *King's Lynn* and *Cromer* are its more northern ports.

Ipswich, the county town of *Suffolk*, is a place of some trade, on the river *Orwell*. *Bury St. Edmunds* is a very ancient town, and with *Sudbury* and *Lowestoft* (the most eastern point of England), are the remaining towns of most note.

LESSON IX.

BASIN OF THE TRENT.

Counties included :—*STAFFORD, LEICESTER, DERBY, NOTTINGHAM, and RUTLAND.* Area, 4,000 square miles.

THE *Trent* is the third river of England in size and importance: it rises in the moorlands of North Staffordshire, at an elevation of 500 feet, and has a total length of about 150 miles. It is navigable for barges as far as *Burton-on-Trent*, a distance of 117 miles, and has a slow and equal current.

Its tributaries are numerous: those on its left bank

drain the southern part of the great Pennine range of mountains. The principal are the *Dove* and the *Derwent*; while those on the right bank, consisting of the *Tame*, *Anker*, and *Soar*, flow from the *Clent hills*, and drain the open plain north of the central table-land. Many important canals also communicate with the Trent, and thus greatly facilitate the conveyance of goods through this important river basin.

The course of the Trent is first south, then south-east, and near Burton it turns north-east, when it divides the counties of Leicester and Derby: it afterwards flows more nearly due north through Nottingham, which it, in fact, separates from Lincoln, and finally flows into the estuary of the Humber.

This river basin includes the North Staffordshire coal field, upon which the "Potteries" are established; that of Dudley on the south; the Ashby coal field in Leicestershire; and the far more extensive one of Leeds and Nottingham, which stretches from the neighbourhood of Leeds to Nottingham.

Staffordshire is among the most populous counties of England: a large number of its inhabitants being engaged in mining and manufacturing operations. The county generally has a sterile appearance: its riches consist in its beds of coal, iron, and clay.

The *Potteries*, situated on the North Stafford coal field, consist of a line of towns and villages ; of which *Burslem*, *Tunstall*, *Stoke*, and *Etruria*, are the most important. The manufacture of all kinds of earthenware is carried on in this district ; the neighbourhood supplies the necessary coal and coarse clay, but the finer clays are obtained from Dorsetshire, the soapstone from Cornwall, and flints from Kent and Wales. This manufacture is greatly indebted to Messrs. Wedgewood, who, by their skill and good taste, produced articles far superior to any before made in this country.

The iron works of the south surprise all strangers visiting them. The whole country for many miles is nightly illuminated by the furnaces connected with the several works. The most important towns of this district are *Wolverhampton*, *Walsall*, *Wednesbury*, and *Bilston*, where locks, bolts, screws, nails, and japped goods, are made in immense quantities.

Stafford is the ancient county town, and manufactures boots and shoes. *Lichfield* is a cathedral city, in which Dr. Samuel Johnson was born.

Derbyshire, in its physical features, is a far more interesting county than Stafford ; containing on the north the *High Peak*, the termination of the Pennine range, some of whose summits are nearly 2,000 feet

high. The caverns in these hills are both curious and interesting. The minerals of the county are coal, iron, lead, and a small quantity of copper.

Some of the valleys are remarkable for their picturesque beauty : those of the *Dove* and *Derwent*, tributaries of the Trent, are the most celebrated.

Derby, on the *Derwent*, is an important town, and is largely engaged in the manufacture of silk and cotton goods, and porcelain. *Matlock* and *Buxton* are noted for their romantic situation : the latter has also mineral springs. *Chesterfield* and *Belper* are its other manufacturing towns.

Leicestershire is to the south-west of *Derby*, and is a fine agricultural county. Its sheep, horses, and cattle, are all noted for their size and strength. Its principal rivers are the *Soar* and *Avon*, both tributaries of the Trent. *Leicester* is situated on the former, and contains a large population, mainly engaged in the manufacture of hosiery, lace, and gloves. *Loughborough* and *Hinckley* are engaged in the same trade. *Bosworth*, to the west of *Leicester*, was the scene of the defeat and death of Richard III., by which Henry VII. came to the throne, and thus brought the Wars of the Roses to an end. *Lutterworth* was the scene of the labours of Wiclif, our great English reformer.

Nottingham consists mainly of a light sandy loam, and is considered a good agricultural county. The *Sherwood Forest* of olden time, which was the scene of the exploits of Robin Hood and his companions, has long since been converted into productive land. This county contains lead and coal, and manufactures lace and stockings. Of the towns thus engaged, *Nottingham* is the chief, where silk and gloves are also made. The machinery employed in making lace is very intricate and ingenious.

Newark is similarly engaged as to trade ; and here King John died, and Charles I. surrendered himself, in 1646, to the Scottish army. *Mansfield* and *Worksop* carry on malting and other departments of trade.

Rutland is the smallest English county : the soil is good, and agriculture forms the occupation of the population. Its chief town is *Oakham* ; and *Uppingham* is the only remaining market town.

LESSON X.

BASIN OF THE WITHAM AND THE CHESHIRE
PLAIN.

Counties included :—LINCOLNSHIRE and CHESHIRE.

Area, 3,660 square miles.

THE basin of the *Witham* lies to the east of the elevated lands of the Pennine range, and comprehends the county of Lincolnshire, which terminates on the east in a low coast bordering on the North Sea.

The Witham rises in the *Lincoln heights*, in the south-western part of the county : it flows northward and receives the *Till* ; then turns eastward, and finally, with a south-easterly course, it falls into the Wash. The estuary of the *Humber* forms the northern county boundary. The land beyond it, however, forming the south-eastern part of Yorkshire, belongs physically to the same extensive plain. Thus, the range of chalky downs, known as the *Lincoln heights*, which extend along the western part of this county, together with the whole ridge called the *Lincolnshire Wolds*, may be traced north of the Humber in the broad *Yorkshire Wolds*.

The valleys lying between the Wolds and Heights of Lincoln consist of Oxford clay ; and, in common

with most other parts of the county, consist of *fens*, which some centuries ago were well nigh impassable. But from the time of Henry I. a system of drainage has been in operation, by which much valuable land has been reclaimed.

The grass lands support a large number of horned cattle ; and no county of England has so large a supply of wading and fowl-like birds. Large quantities of quills and feathers are sent to London and other large towns.

Lincoln, the county town, is on the Witham, and has a very noble cathedral. It is a very ancient city, and retains even now marks of its Roman origin. The city, and, in fact, the whole county, was for some time in the hands of the Danes, having been granted to them by our Saxon king Alfred.

The principal ports are *Boston*, near the mouth of the Witham, which has carried on an extensive foreign trade for some centuries, and *Great Grimsby*, at the mouth of the Humber. *Grantham* was formerly celebrated for its religious houses ; and near it is the village of *Woolesthorpe*, the birthplace of our great philosopher, Sir Isaac Newton.

Stamford, near the southern boundary, is noted for its educational institutions ; and near it is *Croyland Abbey*, whose monks have left us some useful historical

annals. *Louth*, *Gainsborough* and *Spalding* are also market towns of this county.

Cheshire, or *Chestershire* as it was formerly called, consists of an extensive plain, formed in the main of the *new red sandstone*, covered by a soil of clay and loam, and contains extensive beds of rock salt. Some coal is also found on the north-east.

Owing to the neighbouring mountains, a large quantity of rain falls, giving rise to numerous springs, which feed the *Weaver*, the *Mersey*, and the *Dee*.

Thus, the soil and climate unite to produce good pasturage, and hence, the extent and excellence of its dairy produce: the cheese of *Cheshire* being greatly prized for its richness and flavour. Large quantities of potatoes are also grown in most parts of the county.

Cheshire is a *county-palatine*, giving the title of Earl of *Chester* to the eldest son of the reigning sovereign. It is often called the "Vale Royal of England."

Salt is chiefly obtained in the south-eastern part of the county; from mines at *Northwich*, and from brine springs at *Nantwich* and *Middlewich*.

Chester was a fortified town in the time of the Romans, and now presents some very peculiar features. It is still entirely surrounded by walls, and many of the houses have very richly carved

fronts. In some streets one row of shops exist over another, each row having its own pathway ; while at intervals staircases are placed, leading from the lower to the upper row or street.

The city was once destroyed by the Danes, but was restored by Ethelfleda, the daughter of Alfred. In the civil wars of Charles I. it stood out stoutly in the cause of the royalists.

Stockport, in the north-east, is largely engaged in the manufacture of cotton goods, and *Macclesfield* carries on that of silk : while *Birkenhead*, on the Mersey, opposite Liverpool, is a rapidly increasing commercial town.

LESSON XI.

NORTH - EASTERN DISTRICT.

Counties included:—NORTHUMBERLAND, DURHAM, YORKSHIRE

Area, 8,800 square miles.

THIS district extends northwards to the *Cheviot hills*, while the *Pennine* chain forms its western boundary. On the east it is washed by the North Sea, the coast of which in many parts consists of high cliffs. The rivers, generally, rise in the heights of the Pennine range, which forms an important part of the great

watershed of England, then open into valleys, and fall into the North Sea.

The western part of the district consists mainly of the *carboniferous limestone*, and contains two important coal fields, that of *Newcastle and Durham* in the north, and that of *Leeds and Nottingham* in the south-west.

Proceeding toward the south-east, we have in succession the *magnesian limestone*, the *new red sandstone*, then the *chalk formations*, and finally, near the coast, the *tertiary deposits*.

The nature of the country determines largely the employments of the people. Thus, the great manufacturing centres are found on the coal fields ; while the elevated mountain ranges give employment to a few shepherds, the valleys and plains support an agricultural population, and the commercial towns are on the mouths of the larger rivers. The district produces nearly all kinds of agricultural produce ; the land being farmed with great skill and industry.

Northumberland consists mainly of mountainous land intersected by valleys, through which its rivers flow : the principal being the *Coquet* and the *Tyne*, together with the *Till*, which flows into the Tweed, the *Aln*, and the *Wansbeck*. In addition to the large quantity of coal obtained from the coal fields around Newcastle,

iron, lead, and silver, are also raised. The chief town is *Newcastle-on-Tyne*, which also manufactures clear and stained glass.

On the Tyne are also *Wallsend*, *North Shields*, and *Tynemouth*. *Flodden*, in the north, witnessed the defeat of the Scotch in 1513; while *Hexham*, in the south, was the scene of the defeat of Margaret of Anjou in 1464. The priory of Hexham, in which glass was first used for windows, is a very ancient edifice.

To the north of Flodden is *Berwick-on-Tweed*, a town which, by charter, has a large amount of independent power, and which, in common with all the towns of this border territory, has suffered greatly from the frequent wars and incursions that took place between the English and Scotch prior to the union in 1603. *Alnwick Castle* and *Morpeth* are both structures of great beauty and commanding position. *Holy Isle*, or *Lin-disfarne*, which lies off this coast, was long noted for its monastery.

Durham contains a smaller proportion of mountain land than Northumberland, having the broad and fertile valleys of *Tynedale*, *Weardale*, and *Teesdale*. It produces large quantities of potatoes and wheat. Durham is a county-palatine, under the government of the bishop of the diocese.

Its ports are *Gateshead*, *Newcastle*, *South Shields*, *Monk Wearmouth* (of which town the venerable and learned *Bede* was a native), *Sunderland*, on the *Wear*, *Hartlepool*, and *Stockton-on-Tees*. The trade of these ports depends on the coal and iron obtained in the district, and the cod and salmon fisheries carried on along the coast. In common with the ports of Northumberland, they trade with the countries on the Baltic Sea, and are largely engaged in shipbuilding.

The county town, *Durham*, is beautifully situated on the *Wear*; its principal objects of interest being its cathedral, university, and castle. *Darlington*, engaged in the manufacture of cotton and woollen goods, and *Bishop's Auckland*, are in the same county.

Yorkshire, which is by far the largest county of England, is 120 miles long and ninety broad, and consists of three parts, formerly called *Trithings*, now known as the *North*, *East*, and *West Ridings*.

The county is drained by the Ouse, with its tributaries, the *Swale*, the *Nidd*, and the *Wharfe*; the *Aire* and the *Don*; all of which rise in the Pennine range, and flow into the estuary of the *Humber*.

The central part of the county forms part of the *Plain of York*, from which the land rises, by a succession of moorland elevations, to the great Pennine

chain, where there are many spots of wild and romantic beauty.

On the north-east is another hilly tract, known as the *North York moors*, in which the *Derwent* and the *Esk* have their rise. On the coast are the towns of *Whitby* and *Scarborough*: its capes being *Flamborough Head* and *Spurn Head*.

A few miles up the Humber is the port of *Hull*, which is engaged in the whale and cod fisheries. *York*, the capital of the county, is famed for its cathedral, or minster. The most populous towns are *Leeds*, on the Aire, *Bradford*, *Halifax*, *Wakefield*, and *Huddersfield*, all of which are largely engaged in the manufacture of woollen goods, such as broadcloth, kerseymeres, carpets, &c. *Sheffield* has long been famous for its cutlery and plated goods; and *Rotherham*, near the south border, contains large iron-smelting works. *Doncaster*, famous for its races; *Harrowgate*, which is much resorted to for its mineral springs; and *Pontefract* Castle, where Richard II. was imprisoned and died, are all places of some note in this county.

LESSON XII.

NORTH - WESTERN DISTRICT.

Counties included :—CUMBERLAND, WESTMORELAND, and
LANCASHIRE. Area, 4,050 square miles.

THIS district is very mountainous, containing the entire *Cumbrian group* within its limits, while the *Pennine chain* forms its eastern boundary. Most of the rivers of this district have a short westerly course.

The coast has several large inlets. On the extreme north, the *Solway Firth* flows between Cumberland and Scotland, receiving the waters of the *Eden*, with its tributaries, the *Lowther*, as well as the *Liddel* and the *Esk*, both of which form part of the boundary between England and Scotland. *St. Bee's Head* is the most western point of this coast; and south of this cape is the mouth of the *Duddon*, near which is *Walney Isle*; then the larger inlet of *Morecambe Bay*, with its low extensive sands, into which the *Kent* and *Lune* discharge themselves. The mouths of the *Ribble* and the *Mersey* are the remaining inlets of this coast.

A considerable part of this district consists of the *carboniferous limestone*, and is rich in mineral wealth. In the north, is the small but valuable *Whitehaven* coal field, and the larger one of *Manchester* on the

south. Iron is obtained in several parts, as well as lead, copper, zinc, and plumbago.

The great elevation of the land in many parts renders it fit only for sheep walks ; but the valleys, that of the Eden being the chief, are rich and fertile. Large quantities of potatoes are raised in Lancashire, to which county they were first brought by Sir Walter Raleigh. Much rain falls in most parts.

Carlisle, the county town of Cumberland, is beautifully situated on the Eden, and was in existence in the time of the Romans ; the wall, or line of forts, constructed by that people to repel the Picts, having extended from this city to Newcastle. It now manufactures cotton and linen goods.

Penrith is another very ancient town, having near it some druidical remains. The principal ports are *Whitehaven* and *Workington*, which have a good foreign and coasting trade.

Keswick, on the beautiful lake of *Derwentwater*, is finely situated for romantic scenery, being surrounded on all sides by mountains, lakes, and waterfalls. The poet Southey lived near this town for several years. The plumbago which is obtained in *Borrowdale*, a beautiful valley to the south of *Derwentwater*, is annually sold at *Keswick*.

Ullswater is the largest lake of the county, being nine miles long : but *Thirlmere*, *Buttermere*, and several others, are very grand and picturesque. *Scaw Fell*, the highest English mountain, is 3,266 feet high; while *Helvellyn* and *Skiddaw*, also exceeding 3,000 feet, are the principal elevations. The cascades formed by streams rushing down these mountains, are very charming. That known as *Scale Force* has a fall of 190 feet; and no less grand is that of *Lowdore*.

Westmoreland has generally the same features as the county last described, although not so strongly marked. The chief mountains are *Dunfell* and *Eagle's Chair*. It produces large quantities of slate and limestone, besides some lead and silver.

Windermere, the largest English lake, is ten miles long, and is noted for its beautiful scenery, and the char and other fish found in its waters. The smaller lakes of this county are *Grasmere*, *Rydal-water*, and *Hawes-water*.

The county town, *Appleby*, is much less populous than *Kendal*, which has a good trade in all kinds of coarse woollen goods. *Ambleside*, on the north of *Windermere*, is most charmingly situated : near it the poet Wordsworth and several other literary men had

their favourite residence. *Bowness* and *Kirkby-Lonsdale* are also in this county.

The northern detached part of Lancashire is called *Furness*, and is a land of mountains, lakes, and waterfalls; while the larger southern part is level, and contains a vast manufacturing population.

Lancaster, the county town, is on the *Lune*. It has a castle, built in the reign of William Rufus, the turret of which is called *John-of-Gaunt's chair*, from having been built by John of Gaunt, son of Edward III., and on whose behalf Lancashire was made a *county-palatine*. *Preston*, at the mouth of the Ribble, is a port, and manufactures cotton goods.

Liverpool, on the *Mersey*, is by far the greatest port on the western coast; and in the tonnage of its shipping, it exceeds even London itself. Its trade has increased very rapidly since the time of Elizabeth, when it was styled "Her Majesty's poor decayed town of Liverpool." It imports corn, raw cotton, and other products of America, West Indies, &c.; and exports the manufactured cottons of Lancashire, the woollen goods of Yorkshire, the metal goods of Staffordshire and Birmingham, as well as iron and coal.

The great manufacturing centre of the county is *Manchester*, on the *Irwell*, a town which is second only

to London itself in population. The factories or mills of the cotton district are very large and numerous, and the machinery is most extensive and complicated.

A large number of other towns of considerable size are engaged in the spinning and weaving of various kinds of cotton goods. The principal of these are *Ashton-under-Lyne, Oldham, Bolton, Bury, Rochdale, Chorley, Warrington, and Blackburn.*

The vast amount of traffic carried on between this manufacturing district and the port of Liverpool, led to the construction of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway, which was opened in 1830, and was the first passenger line in this country. On the coast are the smaller towns of *Southport, Blackpool, and Fleetwood.*

LESSON XIII.

NORTH WALES.

Counties included :—FLINT, DENBIGH, CAERNARVON,
ANGLESEY, MERIONETH, and MONTGOMERY.

Area, 3,200 square miles.

THE *Principality of Wales*, which stretches westwards into the Irish Sea and St. George's Channel, was, long after the subjugation of most parts of England by the Saxons, the resort of the *Ancient Britons*, where, amid its mountain fastnesses, they retained their

liberty, often making inroads upon their lost English territory. Thus, for many ages, the *border counties* were scenes of continued petty warfare; and hence, a large number of strong castles were erected throughout these *Marches of Wales*, many of which still remain.

North Wales contains the highest and most considerable mountains of the *Cambrian* group, which extend nearly throughout the principality. The highest chain stretches, north-east and south-west, along Caernarvonshire; *Snowdon*, the highest point, being 3,571 feet above the sea level.

The prevailing rocks are the various kinds of slate, which in many parts is quarried, and prepared for building and other useful purposes.

The most eastern part of Wales belongs to the *Silurian* group, and contains many kinds of building stones. In the north are the small coal fields of *Flint* and *Anglesey*; while that of *South Wales* extends over an area of about 1,200 square miles. Several of the metals are also obtained in various parts of Wales.

The principal rivers are the *Dee*, which, rising in Merionethshire, flows through the pretty *Bala Lake*, and then enters the lovely vale of *Llangollen*, in Denbighshire, and passing through part of Cheshire, it empties itself by a broad estuary into the Irish Sea;

the *Clwyd*, which waters one of the most fertile vales of North Wales; the *Conway*, the *Maw*, the *Dyfi*, together with the *Severn*.

More rain falls in Wales than the average amount in England; the land is therefore much better adapted for pasturage than for raising corn.

Flintshire, the smallest and least hilly county of Wales, contains only 250 square miles. Its coast, extending along the estuary of the Dee, is low and sandy. In addition to coal, it supplies also some quantities of lead, copper, and zinc.

Mold is the county town; *Flint*, however, was so formerly. *St. Asaph* is the only city of the county. *Holywell*, so noted in ancient times for the well of *St. Winefred*, which was supposed to effect miraculous cures, is now the largest town in the county; the water of the holy well being used in the production of cotton twist. It has also in its neighbourhood some copper and brass works.

The county of *Denbigh* is more mountainous than Flint, and supplies coal, iron, lead, slate, and mill-stones. The coal mines of *Ruabon* and *Wrexham* are very extensive. *Denbigh*, the capital, is on the *Clwyd*. The other towns of note are *Abergele*, on the north coast, *Ruthin*, and *Llangollen*.

Caernarvonshire stretches far out into the Irish Sea, and thus forms the northern limit of *Cardigan Bay*. Its most northern point is *Great Orme's Head*: off its most western point is *Bardsey Island*.

From the top of *Snowdon*, which is in this county, the view on a clear day is most magnificent, extending over nearly the whole of Wales, several counties of England, the Isle of Man, and parts of the coasts of Scotland and Ireland. The pass of *Capel Curig* is noted for its romantic beauty.

Caernarvon, the county town, is on the *Menai Straits*: its castle, in which Edward II. was born, is very extensive. *Bangor* is also on the *Menai Straits*, and is the see of a bishop. The largest slate works in Wales are near this city. *Conway* is still surrounded by its ancient walls, on a river of the same name, and contains a fine castle: pearl oysters are found in its neighbourhood.

The isle and county of *Anglesey* is separated from *Caernarvon* by the *Menai Straits*, which is crossed near *Bangor* by two famous suspension bridges. The copper mines are very productive; while lead, silver, limestone, and marble, are also obtained. The fisheries are also a source of great profit.

Beaumaris, the county town, is on the coast, nearly

opposite to Bangor. *Holyhead* is a rising port ; it is situated on *Holy Island*, which is to the west of Anglesey. The harbour of Holyhead is now, by means of an extensive breakwater and other works, being rendered one of the best on the western coast.

Merionethshire is also a coast county. It is the most mountainous and least populous in Wales. *Cader Idris* is its principal mountain. *Bala* and *Dolgelley* are both assize towns ; the former stands on the Bala Lake, but the latter is of more importance, manufacturing some coarse woollen goods. *Barmouth* is the principal port.

Montgomery is an inland and border county, and contains *Plynlimmon*, which, although inferior to many Welsh mountains in height, is yet the largest and most massy.

The assizes are held at *Newtown* and *Welshpool*, both of which towns are engaged in the manufacture of flannels. The other towns of most note are *Montgomery* and *Machynlleth*.

LESSON XIV.

SOUTH WALES.

Counties included :—RADNOR, BRECKNOCK, CARDIGAN,
PEMBROKE, CAERMARTHEN, and GLAMORGAN.

Area, 4,200 square miles.

SOUTH Wales consists in large part of elevations, not greatly inferior in height to those of North Wales. There are, however, some valleys or plains of considerable extent. The vale, or rather plain, of *Caermarthen* being the most extensive. The *Black mountains*, which run east and west through Brecknockshire, are the most elevated.

The principal rivers of the district are the *Ystwith* and the *Teify*, which flow into the Bay of Cardigan; and the *Towey*, the *Taw*, the *Neath*, the *Taff*, and the *Rumney*, which fall into the Bristol Channel. The coast, as it extends southward, stretches out also towards the west, enclosing Cardigan Bay, and mainly consists of cliffs, varying in height and character.

The most western point of Pembroke is *St. David's Head*, a little south of which we have *St. Bride's Bay* and *Milford Haven*. The principal inlets on the south being *Caermarthen Bay* and *Swansea Bay*; and on the peninsula between the two latter is *Worm's Head*.

Radnorshire, the smallest of the southern Welsh counties, contains a large amount of elevated moor land, and forms part of the basin of the Severn. The *Radnor forest* is in some parts 2,000 feet high. Its chief town, *Presteign*, is situated in a fertile valley watered by the *Lug*. *New and Old Radnor*, and *Knighton*, are the next largest towns in the county.

Brecknockshire is also an inland county, having the *Brecon beacons* and the *Black mountains*, which are the highest in South Wales, within its limits. Its chief towns are *Brecon*, the capital, which is near the centre of the county, and is well situated on the river *Usk*; *Builth*, on the *Wye*, *Talgarth*, and *Crickhowel*. The main employment of the population is agriculture; but some small quantities of baize and other coarse woollens are made.

The county of *Cardigan* has a long stretch of coast on the Bay of Cardigan: the land near the coast being comparatively level, the north-eastern part is barren and hilly. A part of *Plynlimmon* belongs to this county. Agriculture is the main occupation: the sheep and cattle, as in all parts of Wales, are small and hardy, being well adapted to the climate and soil which they inhabit. The small Welsh mutton is highly esteemed for its flavour. Some good barley and large

quantities of potatoes are produced. A little cottage-weaving of flannel is carried on.

Cardigan and *Lampeter* are on the *Teify*, the former being the capital: but *Aberystwith*, at the mouth of the Ystwith and the Rhidiol, is its largest port.

Pembrokeshire is the best situated county of Wales for maritime pursuits. Its coast is extensive, and has good bays, that of *Milford Haven* being one of the best and most secure in the world.

The land is undulating without being mountainous; but little timber grows in the county, and hence, it has generally a barren appearance. Coal and slate are its principal minerals.

Haverfordwest, the county town, is on the small river *Cleddy*. *Pembroke* stands on a navigable creek of Milford Haven, and near it is the naval dockyard, which is considered one of the finest in the kingdom. *Milford* is still a considerable port, although it suffered much from the removal of the government establishment from this town to Pembroke. *Tenby* is a pretty and increasing watering place, having a fine sandy beach. *St. David's* and *Fishguard* are places of less note in the north of this county.

The county of *Caermarthen* lies to the north of the Bay of Caermarthen, an inlet from the Bristol Channel.

Its rivers are the *Towy* and the *Tawe*. Along the coast is some good arable land, but the more northern part is mountainous, and is useful for sheep pasturage.

The chief town is *Caermarthen*. It carries on a general trade, and has a castle of some note. Inland are the towns of *Llandovery* and *Llandilo Vawr*.

Glamorgan is the most southern Welsh county, and is well situated for manufacture and commerce. It contains vast quantities of coal and iron; the former being the best known for use by ocean steamers. The South Wales coal field extends over a large part of this county, on which are situated a large number of towns and villages engaged in the smelting of iron ore, which is largely obtained. *Merthyr Tydvil* is the most important of these towns. But the hill sides and valleys for many miles around, are clustered with huge furnaces and other works.

The principal ports are *Swansea*, *Cardiff*, and *Neath*, the former being chiefly engaged in the smelting of copper ores, and the trades of the two latter being mainly connected with the export of coal and iron.

The river *Taff* drains the eastern part of the county, and upon it stands the city of *Llandaff*, which, though a small place, has one of the finest cathedrals of South Wales.

LESSON XV.

SCOTLAND, GENERAL.

Area, 30,240 square miles. Division, 33 Counties.

SCOTLAND, formerly called *Caledonia*, forms the northern part of Great Britain, and, except on the south, where it joins England, it is surrounded on all sides by the ocean. Its length is about 280 miles, but its width varies from thirty-five to 120 miles: it has an area of little more than half that of England and Wales.

The country generally differs greatly from that of South Britain, being far more mountainous and sterile: its lakes are larger and more numerous, its rivers shorter and more rapid, its coasts more broken and precipitous.

The chain of the *Grampians* extends across the country north-east and south-west, having several heights exceeding 4,000 feet. *Ben Macdhu*, the highest British mountain, is 4,890 feet above the sea level; and Ben Nevis is found to be but twenty feet less in height.

The whole extent of country to the north of the Grampians is known as the *Highlands*, and contains but little land capable of cultivation. To the south of

this is the *Lowlands*, which is by far the more fertile and populous part of Scotland. The *Highlanders* differ much in race, habits, and even in language, from the *Lowlanders*; the former belonging to the *Celtic* race, while the latter, like the majority of the English, are of *Teutonic* origin.

Scotland, being to the north of England, has a colder climate; and its relation to the sea and extensive mountain heights, account for the large amount of rain and snow which fall there. As we proceed northward, the summer days become longer, giving a warm though short summer; while the winter days are also proportionably shorter than those of more southern latitudes.

Toward the south of Scotland is the extensive coal field of *Glasgow and Edinburgh*, which stretches from the coast of Fifeshire on the east, to that of Ayr on the west. Upon this coal field the most populous towns are situated, and the most extensive manufactures carried on. In fact, this district contains more than half of the entire population of the country.

The land south of this coal field is generally fertile, and available either for pasture or corn. It is well tilled, and large crops of oats, wheat, potatoes, and turnips, are obtained.

The total population of Scotland in 1851, was 2,888,000 ; that of England being at the same period 17,000,000, and Wales 1,000,000. Besides the occupations already named, fishing is very extensively carried on in the Highlands. On some parts of the coast and islands it forms almost the only occupation of the inhabitants.

For some centuries the people of Scotland have paid great attention to the education and religious instruction of their whole population. Hence, there are but few *children* in Scotland who do not go to school, and few *adults* who do not attend some *kirk*.

Except *Glasgow* and *Leith*, Scotland has but few river-ports, the majority being either on the *sea* coast or quite at the mouth of some river. This arises from the rapid course of most Scotch rivers, rendering them incapable of navigation far from their mouths. The principal trade of the Scotch ports is carried on with the northern parts of Europe, and depends greatly upon the whale, cod, herring, salmon, and other fisheries.

The islands of Scotland are very numerous, consisting of the *Shetlands* and *Orkneys*, toward the north, and the *Hebrides*, on the west. In the Irish Sea, and at nearly an equal distance from the coasts of England,

Scotland, Ireland, and Wales, is the *Isle of Man*, the inhabitants of which are known as the *Manx*, and have some customs and forms of government differing from those of any other branch of the British Empire. The chief towns of the island are *Douglas* and *Castleton*.

LESSON XVI.

BASIN OF THE TWEED.

Counties included :—*PERBLES, SELKIRK, ROXBURGH, HADDINGTON, and BREWICK.* Area, 2,000 square miles.

THE basin of the Tweed consists chiefly of elevated lands, bounded by the *Cheviot hills* on the south, the *Lowthers* on the west, and the *Pentland, Muirfoot*, and *Lammermoor* hills on the north. It is about 100 miles in length, and its course is north and east.

Near the *source* of this river the country is mountainous, wild, and comparatively barren ; the rocks, as in Wales, consisting of various kinds of *slate* ; then follow extensive *pastoral* lands of the *old red sandstone* ; and finally, toward the coast, we have a rich *agricultural* district, with a subsoil of limestone, which encloses a small coal field between *Kelso* and *Berwick*.

The tributaries of the Tweed are the *Lynn*, the *Ettrick*, the *Yarrow*, the *Teviot*, the *Till*, and the

Whiteadder, all of which rise in the elevations of the district. The water is remarkably clear, and, next to the Tay, it is the most valuable salmon river in Scotland.

Peeblesshire contains a large amount of elevated moors and bogs. *Hart Fell*, in which the Tweed has its rise, is about 2,600 feet above the sea level; and *Broadlaw*, the most elevated point in the south of Scotland, is about 100 feet higher. Along the banks of the Tweed, and its tributary the Lynn, are some good fertile lands. *Peebles* is the only town of note: it was for a time the residence of Mungo Park, the African traveller, as also the birthplace of Mr. William Chambers, who, in our own time, has done so much to improve literature and advance education.

Selkirk is also an elevated pastoral county, and is drained by the *Yarrow* and the *Ettrick*, the banks of which are interesting and fertile. The farming has greatly improved during the last century. *Selkirk* is the capital; but the county is far more noted as having supplied subjects for the verse of Hogg, the *Ettrick Shepherd*, and legends for the pen of Sir Walter Scott, than for its industrial pursuits. The total population of the county does not much exceed 6,000.

Roxburghshire, or *Teviotdale* as it is also called, is a

border county, having the Cheviots dividing it from Northumberland, and contains much fertile and well farmed land. In fact, some of the most improved modes of agriculture now adopted in the three kingdoms, were first tried in this county.

Jedburgh, the chief town, as well as *Hawick*, *Wilton*, and *Kelso*, are engaged in the manufacture of *tweeds* and other woollen goods. *Melrose*, noted for the ruins of its once magnificent abbey; and *Abbotsford*, the residence of Sir Walter Scott, are both in this county.

Haddington, or *East Lothian*, is a coast county, and has a gradual slope from the *Lammermoors*, on the southern border, to the coast. It is one of the best farmed counties in the United Kingdom, and raises the finest turnips, as well as wheat, barley, and beans. Scarcely a farm exists that is not provided with its steam-engine, for thrashing and performing other kinds of work.

The county town is *Haddington*, where the great Scotch reformer, John Knox, was born. The chief port is *Dunbar*, near which Cromwell defeated the Scotch army in 1650. Off the coast is a small island, known as the *Bass Rock*, on which a celebrated light-house has been erected.

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Berwickshire lies along the coast between Haddington and England, and is tolerably level, with a fertile clay soil; having, however, some bleak and barren spots toward the north. Wheat, turnips, barley, and oats, are all raised in the county. The Cheviot sheep are now extensively reared in this and the neighbouring counties. The *Leader* and the *Blackadder*, which fall into the Tweed, are its principal rivers.

Berwick, at the mouth of the Tweed, is largely engaged in connection with the salmon fisheries. The county town is *Greenlaw*; it has also the small town of *Coldstream*, and the little port of *Eyemouth*, on the coast.

LESSON XVII.

BASIN OF THE FORTH.

Counties included:—*Perth*, STIRLING, CLACKMANNAN, KINROSS, FIFE, LINLITHGOW, and EDINBURGH.

Area, 700 square miles.

THE river *Forth* rises on the eastern slopes of Ben Lomond: the *direct* distance from its source to Kin-cardine, where it falls into the Firth of Forth, is but thirty-five miles, yet its actual course is about 100 miles.

The *Firth*, or *Frith*, of *Forth*, is one of the most important inlets of Scotland, extending inland for about thirty-five miles. The eastern part of the Glasgow and Edinburgh coal field extends along its shores, thus giving facilities for the establishment of manufactures; while the land is remarkable for its fertility, and the skill with which it is farmed.

Its principal tributary is the *Teith*, which, rising a little north of the main stream, flows through Lochs *Katrine* and *Venachar*, then passing *Calendar* and *Doune*, joins the Forth a little above Stirling. Near this town, on the right bank, it also receives the *Bannock*, a small stream, on the banks of which is the village of Bannockburn, where the Scotch, under Robert Bruce, defeated the army of Edward II. in 1314.

The Forth drains the south-western part of *Perthshire* and *Stirling*: the former county, however, is mainly within the basin of the Tay.

The county of *Stirling* varies much in its character; having extensive wood, moor, and bog lands on the north-west and central parts, while on the banks of the Firth, near Stirling, are some rich alluvial lands, consisting of clay and sand, where wheat, beans, barley, and clover, are very successfully cultivated. The lighter lands produce potatoes, and the elevated range

of the *Campsie Fells* and *Lennox* hills supply pasture for cattle and oats.

Stirling, the chief town, is finely situated on the Firth : its castle, which is on the summit of a steep basaltic rock, was one of the strongest in Scotland, and has stood many a siege ; while many fierce engagements have been witnessed from its towers and battlements. Both *Stirling* and *Bannockburn*, which is distant only two miles, now manufacture tartans, shawls, carpets, and some other woollen goods.

Carron, which is situated on the coal field, has extensive iron works ; and near it is *Falkirk*, noted for its *trysts* (that is, fairs or markets), for cattle, which are the largest held in Scotland.

Clackmannan is the smallest Scotch county, and is situated between the Forth and Perthshire. The land is fertile, and produces good corn and other crops. Its chief minerals are salt and coal.

The county town is *Clackmannan* ; but *Alloa*, on the Forth, is a much larger town, having a considerable export trade in coal, as well as some extensive iron works, distilleries, and breweries.

Kinross, although considerably larger than *Clackmannan*, contains an area of only seventy-two square miles. In this county is *Loch Leven*, from the castle of which

Mary Queen of Scots made her escape, after having been detained there as a prisoner for some months. *Kinross* and *Milnathort* are the only towns of the county.

Fifeshire is a large maritime county, between the Firths of Forth and Tay, and stretches out into the North Sea. Its principal headland is *Fife Ness*.

This county contains large quantities of coal and iron, as well as various kinds of building stones. Being favourably situated for fishing, a large number of towns and villages exist along its coast. Much of the land also is very fertile, so that it is one of the richest counties of Scotland.

Cupar, the county town, is on the small river *Eden*. *Dunfermline*, the burial place of Bruce, is a larger town, engaged in the linen manufacture. *Kirkcaldy*, the scene of the early labours of Dr. Chalmers, and *Dysart*, are on the coast. *St. Andrew's*, the seat of the most ancient Scotch university, is the most renowned town, having been considered for centuries the ecclesiastical capital of the kingdom.

Linlithgow, or *West Lothian*, is a small county on the south of the Firth of Forth, and greatly resembles the other Lothians in its soil and productions. In its capital, *Linlithgow*, Mary Queen of Scots was born.

It forms part of the large coal field already mentioned, and contains some iron works.

Eastward is the more important county of *Edinburgh*, or *Mid Lothian*, which consists mainly of hilly yet fertile and well cultivated lands.

Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland, is very finely situated near the Forth. It consists of the *Old Town*, the high houses and narrow *wynds* (or courts) of which, surmounted by an extensive and venerable castle, contrast strangely with the broad, regular streets, and modern mansions of the *New Town*. The city contains a large number of public buildings and educational institutions, on account of which it has been called the "Modern Athens." A large number of books are produced in this city. Its population is about 150,000.

Leith, the port of Edinburgh, is on the Forth : near to which are *Pertobello* and *Granton*, the latter having one of the best harbours on the Forth. The remaining towns of the county are *Musselburgh* and *Dalkeith*.

LESSON XVIII.

BASIN OF THE CLYDE.

Counties included :—LANARK, RENFREW, DUMBARTON, ARGYLE, and BUTE. Area, 1,500 square miles.

THE *Clyde*, which is, commercially, the most important river in Scotland, has its source in the *Pentland* hills. A little above Lanark it receives the *Douglas*, when it forms a series of broad and majestic waterfalls, one of which has a depth of seventy feet. From these falls the river widens, and flows with a moderate current through a fertile district to Glasgow, which is its principal port. At Dumbarton, a distance of seventy-three miles from its source, the Clyde receives the *Leven*, and the united rivers merge into the romantic estuary or Frith of Clyde.

A considerable part of the basin of this river belongs to the Glasgow and Edinburgh coal field, and supplies, in addition to coal, large quantities of iron-stone. Lead is also obtained from the Lead hills near the source of the Clyde. Granite, and various kinds of limestone and freestone, are very abundant.

Lanarkshire, or *Clydesdale*, has on its south a wild, mountainous district, consisting of the *Lowther* and *Lead* hills, with some other elevations exceeding 2,000 feet. Proceeding northwards, the *Strath*, or valley,

becomes more level and fertile, where the soil consists of clay, with loam, sand, and gravel. The horses of this county are in high repute.

The county town, *Lanark*, carries on some considerable amount of hand-loom weaving. *Hamilton* is well situated at the confluence of the *Avon* and the *Clyde*, and is noted for its palace, which is one of the finest in the country.

Glasgow, the principal port of Scotland, has a population of 350,000, being about double that of *Edinburgh*. It is the principal seat of the cotton manufacture, and has also extensive chemical and iron works. *Glasgow*, *Greenock*, and some other towns on the *Clyde*, are noted for building *iron* steamships, both for river and sea navigation. As a port *Glasgow* ranks high, having ready communication with the *Atlantic*, and its neighbourhood supplying manufactures for export, as well as forming a good market for imported goods.

The county of *Renfrew* is west of *Lanark*, and borders on the *Frith* of *Clyde*. It contains the manufacturing town of *Paisley*, where shawls, and other cotton, wool-len, and silk goods, are extensively made ; as well as *Greenock* and *Port Glasgow*, both of which are important shipping towns.

Dumbarton, like *Renfrew*, is a small county, lying on the north of the Firth of Clyde, between *Loch Lomond* on the east, and *Loch Long* on the west. A large part of this county consists of high sterile mountains, which afford pasturage for sheep or goats ; while on the banks of its lochs and rivers are spots of most romantic beauty.

Its capital, *Dumbarton*, has a strong and ancient castle, in which the double-handed sword of the renowned Wallace is kept. *Helensburgh*, on the Forth, and *Luss*, on Loch Lomond, are pleasant and flourishing watering places.

Argyleshire is one of the most western counties of Scotland, and is greatly broken by deep stretching arms of the sea. Thus, the coast is very extensive and rocky, and the herring and other fisheries are extensively carried on.

The county is very mountainous and romantic, more particularly in the neighbourhood of Loch Long, Loch Fyne, Loch Etive, and Loch Linnhe, all of which are bold, and often land-locked, arms of the sea. Its principal inland lake is *Loch Awe*, near to which is *Ben Cruachan*, a fine mountain 3,000 feet high. The coast in most parts is very wild, having bold headlands and steep cliffs, backed by rugged mountain heights.

The large peninsula of *Cantire* forms the most southern part of the county, at the extreme point of which is the *Mull of Cantire*. The large islands of *Islay*, *Iona*, and *Mull*, together with many smaller ones, belong to Argyle. Of these, *Staffa* and *Iona*, to the west of Mull, are the most noted, the former for its extensive and beautiful basaltic caverns, and the latter for its marks of former ecclesiastical greatness.

Inverary, on Loch Fyne, is the county town, and is engaged in the herring fishery. *Oban*, however, is the principal port.

The county of *Bute* consists of the islands of *Arran* and *Bute*, which, like Argyle, are bold and mountainous; the population being chiefly engaged in fishing and other maritime operations. *Rothsay*, in Bute, is the chief town.

LESSON XIX.

SOUTH-WESTERN DISTRICT.

Counties included :—DUMFRIES, KIRKCUDBRIGHT, WIGTON, and Ayr. Area, 3,600 square miles.

THE south-western district forms the northern boundary of the Solway Firth and the Irish Sea, and is drained by the *Esk*, the *Annan*, the *Nith*, and the *Dee*, all of

which have a southerly course, and fall into the Solway Firth: while the *Doon* and the *Ayr* flow westward into the North Channel.

It has a succession of heights, which form its north-eastern boundary, of which the chief are the *Kells*, the *Lowther* and the *Hartfell* hills, which have an average elevation of about 2,000 feet. South of these the district is rich in most kinds of agricultural produce. The most prevalent rocks consist of the various kinds of slate, with some sandstone and granite; and on the north are the small coal fields of *Ayr*.

Dumfries is a border county, being separated from Cumberland by the *Liddel-water*, a tributary of the *Esk*, and the Solway Firth.

Since the introduction of steam navigation with Liverpool and other English ports, by which markets have been opened for the sale of sheep and other farm produce, the county has greatly improved in agricultural value. Half a century ago, the roads of this and the neighbouring counties were hardly passable for carriages; now, however, they are nearly equal to any in the country.

On the north-west of this district are some lead and coal mines; while limestone and freestone are common in most parts.

Dumfries, the county town, has large markets for cattle. *Annan*, *Moffat*, and *Sanguhar*, near the lead mines, are the other towns of the county.

Kirkcudbright is to the west of the last-named county, and greatly resembles it in soil and productions. With *Wigtonshire* it is known under the common name of *Galloway*. Large numbers of a fine breed of cattle and sheep are reared in these counties, which are much better adapted for pasturage than for tillage; still, they produce potatoes, turnips, and corn crops, principally oats and barley.

The land is mostly divided by means of stone walls, which are known as *Galloway dykes*, in place of the hedges so common in England. Toward the north some considerable tracts consist of moor and bog lands.

Kirkcudbright, at the mouth of the *Dee*, is the capital of the former county, and near to which are some salmon fisheries: *Castle Douglas* and *New Galloway* being its remaining principal towns.

The county of *Wigton* is the most southern Scotch county; the *Mull of Galloway* being its extreme headland. *Luce Bay* is a broad inlet on its south; and *Wigton Bay*, which runs between it and *Kirkcudbright*, has on its shores the capital town of *Wigton*.

The chief port of the county is *Port Patrick*, which

has a considerable trade with Belfast and other towns in the north of Ireland.

Ayrshire lies in the form of a crescent along the eastern side of the Frith of Clyde, having about seventy-five miles of coast. The surface is varied; much of it is hilly, although it contains but little mountain land. In the south are some wild dreary wastes.

Dairy husbandry is much practised; the Ayrshire cow being noted for the quantity of milk which it supplies: but oats, beans, and potatoes, are raised in large quantities.

Both coal and iron are raised in the north of the county, the latter being worked at *Muirkirk*. Building stone is obtained in large quantities. *Ayr* is the principal town, and, as well as *Troon* and *Ardrrossan*, exports large quantities of coal and iron. It is also noted as being the birthplace of the poet Burns.

Kilmarnock is largely engaged in the manufacture of carpets and shawls. *Stewarton* and *Catrine* also manufacture cotton and woollen goods. These manufactures have led to greatly improved roads; while railroads have been constructed, connecting Ayr with Paisley and Glasgow, as well as Troon with Kilmarnock.

LESSON XX.

BASIN OF THE TAY, ESK, AND DEE.

Counties included :—PERTH, FORFAR, KINCARDINE, and ABERDEEN. Area, 3,800 square miles.

THE *Tay* rises in the southern Grampians, north of Loch Lomond : its general course is first toward the north-east, then south-east, after which it turns south-west, and so falls into the Firth of Tay. It is the largest *Scotch* river, and, as regards the quantity of water discharged, the greatest *British* river. Its length is about 110 miles, and it is the finest salmon river in Great Britain.

The Tay flows through Loch Tay, and receives the waters of a large number of mountain streams, many of which, in winter, become bounding torrents. Its principal tributaries are the *Lyon*, the *Tummel*, which flows through Lochs *Rannoch* and *Tummel*, and is joined by the *Gary*, near the pass of *Killiecrankie* ; the *Airdle*, the *Isla*, and the *Farn*.

The basin of the Tay is bounded on the north by the main range of the *Grampians*, which form the county boundary between *Perth* and *Forfar* ; and on the south by the *Ochill* hills : and includes the county of *Perth* and the southern part of *Forfar*.

Perthshire is one of the largest Scotch counties, and

contains, in respect of scenery, soil, products, and population, nearly every kind to be found in the country, so that it may be said to be Scotland in miniature.

Nearly one half of the county consists of mountain elevations, the highest points of which are *Ben Lawers* and *Ben More*, both of which are nearly 4,000 feet above the sea. Toward the south and east there are extensive tracts of fertile land ; the *Carse of Gowrie*, situated between the Sidlaw hills on the north, and the Firth of Tay on the south, being the most noted. The mountain district of the north and west supplies good runs for sheep, which are tended by the *Celtic*, or Highland shepherd ; while the more fertile plains and valleys produce crops of oats, turnips, and beans, under the culture of the *Saxon* husbandman.

Perth is an ancient town, well situated on the Tay, which is so far navigable. In it James I. of Scotland was assassinated. It now manufactures coloured cotton goods. Near this town is *Scone*, in the ancient palace of which the kings of Scotland were formerly crowned. The stone on which they sat during the ceremony is now at Westminster.

To the south of this county is *Callander*, having near it the beautiful mountain pass of the *Trossachs*, and

Loch Katrine, with *Ellen's Isle*, the scene of Sir Walter Scott's "Lady of the Lake."

Dunkeld, on the Tay, is also noted for the ruins of its cathedral, as well as for its fine and romantic scenery. Farther north are *Aberfeldy* and *Blair Athol*.

Forfarshire, or *Angus*, is little more than one-third the size of Perthshire, but it contains some rich land, particularly the valley of *Strathmore*, and is well cultivated. The principal rivers are the *North* and *South Esk*, both of which fall into *Montrose Bay*.

Dundee, on the Firth of Tay, is the principal seat of the linen manufacture in the kingdom, and is also a flourishing port. *Arbroath* and *Montrose* are also engaged in the coasting and foreign trade.

The county of *Kincardine*, or *Mearns*, is also on the coast of the North Sea, between the *Dee* and the *North Esk*, having the termination of the *Grampians* on the west. *Stonehaven* is the principal town.

Aberdeen is a large coast county, and contains *Buchan-ness*, the most eastern point of Scotland. Its principal rivers are the *Dee*, the *Don*, the *Ythan*, and the *Ugie*, all of which flow into the North Sea.

It has a considerable amount of high mountainous land, which, with its moors and other waste lands, occupy nearly two-thirds of the county. *Ben Macduh*,

on the borders of Inverness-shire, is the highest Scotch mountain ; while *Cairntoul* and *Cairgorn* also exceed 4,000 feet in height.

A fine granite is obtained, which is not only used in the county, but much of it is polished and sent to London and other large towns, for building purposes. The city of *Aberdeen* is mainly built of this granite, and consists of the *Old* and *New Town*, each of which has a university. It is a good port, and carries on shipbuilding and some other manufactures.

About forty-five miles west of Aberdeen, and near to *Ballaater*, is *Balmoral*, the picturesque Highland residence of the Queen.

LESSON XXI.

NORTHERN HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS.

Countries included :—INVERNESS, BANFF, ELGIN, NAIRN, CROMARTY, ROSS, SUTHERLAND, and CAITHNESS.

Area, 9,000 square miles.

Islands :—SHETLANDS, ORKNEYS, and HEBRIDES.

Area, 3,000 square miles.

THE *Highlands* comprise more than half the entire area of Scotland ; embracing the whole country north of the Frith of Forth, and of a line passing hence to Stonehaven, in Kincardine. Argyle, which forms the principal part of the *Western Highlands*, together with

Dumbarton, Stirling, Forfar, and Kincardine, which constitute the *Southern Highlands*, have already been described.

The entire district is divided into two parts by the long narrow glen called *Glenmore*, or the *Great Glen*, which stretches from *Loch Linnhe* in a north-easterly direction, to the southern arm of the *Moray Firth*. This glen consists of a chain of long narrow lakes, the chief of which are *Loch Lochie* and *Loch Ness*. These lakes are joined by a broad canal, which thus forms an entire communication between the two seas, known as the *Caledonian Canal*.

The land north of this glen is the most bleak and unproductive, although it does not contain the highest mountains. The coast is extremely irregular, containing, on the east, *Dornoch Firth* and *Moray Firth*; while those on the north and west are smaller, and far too numerous to be mentioned here.

Throughout this district the rivers are short and rapid, and therefore unfit for navigation. Those of most value are the *Spey*, the *Findhorn*, the *Ness*, the *Beuley*, and the *Grady*, all of which flow into the *Moray Firth*. On the banks of this inlet the land is tolerably fertile, forming an exception to the general character of the district.

Banffshire contains a strip of fertile land on the coast, on which oats and other crops are raised ; but the more southern part, being bleak and hilly, supports the more hardy breeds of cattle. Marble, limestone, and marl abound ; while the topaz and crystal are found on some of the southern mountains. *Banff* and *Keith* are the chief towns.

The county of *Elgin*, which is also known as *Moray*, lies west of that of *Banff*, and greatly resembles it in its aspect and productions. Its chief town is *Elgin*, on the little river *Lassie*. *Garmouth* is a small port on the mouth of the *Spey*, which has some valuable salmon fisheries.

Nairn is a very small county, between *Elgin* and *Inverness* ; its capital being *Nairn*, at the mouth of a small river of the same name.

Inverness-shire is the largest county, not only of the district but of all Scotland, containing nearly 3,000 square miles. It stretches quite across the island : the amount of coast on the west, however, is far more extensive than that on the east. By far the greater part of this county is covered with moss and moor. The principal occupation of the population, which is very scanty, is the rearing of cattle and sheep.

Inverness, the capital, is at the north-eastern ex-

tremity of the Caledonian Canal : while at the south-western extremity is *Fort-William* : the distance between them is about sixty miles. *Ben Nevis* rises near the latter town.

Cromarty consists of a large number of detached portions scattered over the neighbouring county of *Ross*, and with which it may well be described as wild, barren, and mountainous. The population, as in most parts of the Highlands, consists of the *Gaelic* race, but few of whom can speak the English language. They are principally engaged as shepherds or as fishermen. The only towns needing to be mentioned are *Cromarty*, *Dingwall*, and *Stornoway*.

Sutherland and *Caithness*, the extreme northern counties, are even more wild and bleak. Still, the Cheviot sheep thrive well on the scanty herbage ; and the roads, implements, methods of culture, &c., have greatly improved during this century. In 1796 there were but two blacksmiths in the county ; there are now about twenty times that number. Oats and potatoes are the principal crops.

The chief capes are *Duncansby Head*, on the north-east, and *Cape Wrath*, on the north-west. The chief towns are *Dornoch*, in *Sutherland*, and *Thurso* and *Wick*, in *Caithness*.

Of the islands, the *Hebrides* are the most numerous and extensive. They lie to the north-west of the main land, and consist of two groups. *Skye* and *Mull* are the largest of the *Inner* group : while *Lewis*, *North* and *South Uist*, and *Barra*, which are separated by the channel known as the *Minsh*, are the principal of the *Outer* group.

The *Orkney Isles*, which are separated from Caithness by the *Pentland Firth*, contain *Pomona*, *Mainland*, and *Hoy*, with many smaller islands. The chief town is *Stromness*. The *Shetlands* are farther north, more wet, rugged, and barren. *Mainland*, the chief of the group, is larger than the sum of all the rest, although they amount to nearly one hundred. The inhabitants of the islands subsist partly by agriculture and rearing cattle ; but some depend almost entirely upon fishing and the eggs of wild birds, which at great risk they obtain from almost inaccessible rocks.

LESSON XXII.

IRELAND, GENERAL.

Divisions, Four Provinces ; viz., **ULSTER, LEINSTER,**
MUNSTER, and **CONNAUGHT.** 32 Counties.

Area, 32,513 square miles.

IRELAND lies to the west of Great Britain, being separated from it by the North Channel, the Irish Sea, and St. George's Channel ; while on the north, west, and south, it is bounded by the Atlantic Ocean.

The name given to the island by the natives is *Erin* ; but at various periods it has been known under the names of *Hibernia*, *Juverta*, and *Scotia*. Its inhabitants have ever been proud of their country, calling it the "*Emerald Isle*," "*First Gem of the Sea*," &c.

The greatest length of Ireland is about 300 miles, and its greatest breadth 180 miles. Its coast is extensive, having many large inlets of the sea, principally on the sides bordering on the Atlantic. Thus, no part is much more than fifty miles distant from the sea.

Compared with Great Britain, the "*Sister Isle*" is low and level. The climate is mild, and little liable to extremes of heat and cold ; but a very large amount of rain falls, more particularly on the south and west of the country. The rocks vary much in their nature,

consisting of granite and other primary rocks, various kinds of limestone and sandstone, as well as the more recent and fertile alluvial formations. It contains, also, some coal fields, though not of great extent; while iron, copper, and silver, are also obtained. Thus, although the mineral wealth of the country is considerable, yet its *chief* wealth arises from its soil, which is remarkable for its great fertility, being one of the richest grazing countries in the world.

The principal elevations in Ireland are situated near its coast. The larger part of the centre of Ireland consists of a great plain, much of which is of bog land, from which vast quantities of *peat* are dug, which is the most common fuel of the population of the country.

The lakes of Ireland are both large and numerous. Some of these, as the Lakes of *Killarney*, are situated in the midst of fine mountain scenery; while others, as *Lough Neagh*, are surrounded by a low and level country. Many of these, as well as the rivers of the country, abound in salmon, trout, and other fish. The coast also supplies vast quantities of *sea* fish; but the fisheries are by no means so productive as they might be made; were more skill, capital, and industry employed upon them.

Ireland, like Scotland, is peopled by two races, the mass of the labouring people belong to the original *Gaelic* branch of the *Celtic* race. Many residing in the west speak only the original *Erse*, or Irish language; while the *Saxon* race exist in the towns, and are most numerous in Ulster and Leinster.

The soil being very rich and fertile, the lower lands produce fine crops of wheat, oats, barley, flax, and potatoes; while the more elevated lands afford good pasturage for sheep and cattle. The inhabitants, however, employ a large part of their farm produce in feeding their cattle, pigs, and poultry. Hence, the people export large quantities of cattle, pigs, eggs, and poultry; while the agricultural labourers themselves live principally upon potatoes.

The fact of the great dependence of the population upon so precarious a crop as the potatoe, has been a source of great and frequent calamity to the country. A failure in that crop, cutting off the main food of the people, results in famine, disease, and great mortality.

Thus, in 1841 the population was upwards of 8,000,000. In 1846 and following years, the potatoe disease, with its consequent famine, disease, and extensive emigration, so reduced the population, that in 1851 it was little more than 6,500,000; showing a

decrease of a million and a half in ten years. We may thus see how the very fertility of a country may, without due care and wise forethought, be productive of evil rather than good. Even now, however, the population of Ireland is more dense than that of either Scotland or Wales.

Of the rivers, the *Shannon* is by far the most important, having a course of about 224 miles. It flows through a succession of lakes, and is noted both for the fine scenery along its banks, as well as for the fish with which it abounds.

The established religion of Ireland, like that of England, is the *Protestant*. The majority of the *people*, however, still adhere to the *Catholic* church of *Rome*. Schools are common throughout the land; and the people are generally quick, clever, and witty, though wanting in wise and persevering industry.

LESSON XXIII.

NORTH-EASTERN DISTRICT.—ULSTER.

Counties included :—DOWN, ANTRIM, ARMAGH, MONAGHAN, TYRONE, LONDONDERRY, CAVAN, FERMANAGH, and DONEGAL. Area, 8,550 square miles.

ULSTER was one of the five ancient provinces of Ireland, and, prior to the time of the Normans, was under the government of the O'Neills. It is now the

most populous province of the island, having upwards of two millions of inhabitants, a considerable proportion of whom are of Scotch or English origin.

The country generally is *mountainous*, having a southern range, of which *Slievh Donard*, one of the *Mourne* mountains, is about 2,800 feet high; and a northern range, of which *Errigal*, in county Donegal, is nearly 2,500 feet high.

Most of the rivers of the province rise in the southern elevations, and, with a northerly course, discharge themselves into the various sea inlets of the coast.

Thus, Lough Foyle in the north receives the waters of the Foyle, and Belfast Lough those of the Lagan; the intermediate country being drained by the *Bann*, which rises in the Mourne mountains, and flows through Lough Neagh, the largest British lake, and falls into the Atlantic Ocean. *Donegal Bay*, *Loch Swilly*, and *Carlingford Lough*, receive the smaller streams and rivers of the province.

Between the northern and southern mountains there is a comparatively level and fertile district, which extends from the coast of Down on the east, to Lough Erne and Lough Derg on the west, thus including a large part of the counties Down, Armagh, and Tyrone.

In addition to wheat, oats, barley, and potatoes,

which are pretty generally cultivated, a large quantity of flax is raised, the dressing and manufacture of which into linen gives employment to many of the population.

Down, or *County Down* as it is generally called (the term *shire* never being applied to *Irish* counties), has Belfast Lough on the north and Carlingford Lough on the south, as well as *Dundrum Bay* and *Strangford Lough*.

Its chief rivers are the *Bann*, the *Lagan*, and the *Newry*, and its chief towns are *Downpatrick*, where the famous St. Patrick was buried in 493, and *Newry*, which is the principal port.

Antrim, the most important maritime county of the province, lies to the north of Down, having *Carrickfergus*, where William III. landed, as its capital. *Belfast*, however, is a much larger town, and the chief port in the north of Ireland. It is the seat of the trade in linen, damask, and poplin, and exports provisions of various kinds. *Ballemena* and *Antrim* are in the same county.

On the northern coast is *Fairhead*, to the west of which is that remarkable series of stupendous and beautiful basaltic columns, known as the *Giant's Causeway*, which is rightly considered one of the

greatest natural wonders of the British Islands. *Londonderry* lies south-east of Lough Foyle, and contains some good fertile lands. A large part of this county was granted by James I. to the various London Companies. The *Bann* and the *Foyle* are its principal rivers.

Londonderry, often called *Derry*, is a thriving port, and is noted for having so stoutly resisted the attack of James II. in 1689. *Coleraine* carries on a good trade in linen, and has some valuable salmon fisheries.

Donegal is the next coast county. *Malin Head* is the most northern land of Ireland. *Lough Swilly* and *Donegal Bay* are its chief inlets. *Lifford*, *Ballyshannon*, and *Donegal*, are the most important towns.

Tyrone, the capital of which is *Omagh*, together with *Armagh* and *Monaghan*, each of which has its principal town similarly named, form the chief inland counties of the province, and are drained by the various tributaries of the *Foyle* and the *Bann*. They are generally level and fertile, producing corn, flax, potatoes, and cattle.

Cavan and *Fermanagh* are on the south-west of the province. The former county is somewhat hilly, and both the land and population are extremely poor. The *Shannon* and the *Erne* both rise in the county. *Cavan* is the chief town.

Fermanagh is a well wooded county, and is generally pretty well farmed ; although it is said, that not many years ago the people were accustomed to yoke their ploughs to the horses' tails ! Some iron is found in various parts, and the linen manufacture is carried on at *Enniskillen* and other towns.

LESSON XXIV.

SOUTH-EASTERN DISTRICT.—LEINSTER.

Counties included :—*LOUTH, MEATH, KILDARE, DUBLIN, WICKLOW, LONGFORD, WEST MEATH, KING'S COUNTY, QUEEN'S COUNTY, CARLOW, KILKENNY, and WEXFORD.*

Area, 7,620 square miles.

For some time after the conquest of Ireland by Henry II., it was divided into two principal parts, the country *within* and the country *without* the *pale*. The former, which was the first part conquered and settled by the English, consisted of the greater part of the province of Leinster, together with the southern counties of Munster.

Leinster has but little mountain land, except in Wicklow county. Toward the centre it has the large and elevated bog of *Allen*, which has a mean elevation of about 250 feet, and in which the principal rivers of the district, the *Boyme*, the *Liffey*, and the *Barrow*, have their rise. Several tributaries of the Shannon flow

westward into that river, while also the *Grand Canal* and the *Royal Canal*, which connect Dublin Bay with the Shannon, cross this great central bog.

Thus, Leinster has good means for *inland* navigation, but its *sea* coast does not possess harbours of equal value to those of the other provinces. The inlets from the Irish Sea are *Dundalk Bay* on the north, *Dublin Bay*, *Wexford Haven*, and *Waterford Harbour*; the latter being on the south coast.

Louth is the most northerly county of Leinster, having on its south the larger county of *Meath*, which it greatly resembles in soil and productions. Both counties are drained by the *Boyne*, with its tributary the *Blackwater*. *Drogheda*, the chief town of Louth, is a port on the Boyne, and carries on some trade in linen goods. Near the city the battle of the Boyne was fought, in which James II. was defeated by William III. *Trim* is the county town of Meath.

Kildare is an inland county, having a fertile soil of clay and loam. Its north-western portion forms part of the bog of Allen. Its chief towns are *Kildare* and *Athy*.

Dublin county, although small, is pleasant and fertile, and is principally noted as being the metropolitan county. The city of *Dublin* stands on the *Liffey*, at

the head of the Bay ; and although its trade has fallen off, yet it is by far the finest city in Ireland. Its streets and squares are wide, and contain many good buildings.

It has *Trinity College* (founded by Queen Elizabeth), the *Castle*, and the old *Parliament House*, now used as the National Bank ; while the *Phoenix Park*, which contains the residence of the *Lord Lieutenant*, is one of the most beautiful and extensive in Europe.

Kingston, on the south of the bay, has a good harbour ; and *Balbriggan* is well known for its lace and hosiery.

Wicklow is a mountainous and coast county, lying to the south of Dublin. The Liffey has its rise in Wicklow, but most of its rivers, as the Ovoca and the Vartrey, are short and rapid. Some small quantities of *gold*, *manganese*, and *zinc*, have been found in the Wicklow mountains ; but *copper* is by far its most valuable mineral.

The county contains some most romantic spots, so that it is much visited during the summer season. *Wicklow* and *Arklow*, both small coast ports, are the chief towns.

Longford, *Westmeath*, and *King's County*, lie along the eastern bank of the Shannon, and may be described together as moderately fertile, although but poorly

farmed counties. The farms are generally small, and the peasants are but poorly fed and housed. *Longford*, *Mullingar*, and *Tullamore*, are the respective county towns.

Queen's County and *Kilkenny* form the basin of the *Nore* and the *Barrow*; while the *Blackwater* and the *Slaney* drain *Carlow* and *Wexford*. The two former counties are generally flat; they contain some coal, iron, and lead ores, as well as some good sandstones and marble.

Portarlington is the capital of *Queen's County*; while *Kilkenny*, on the *Nore*, at which some carpets and other woollen goods are made, is the chief town of the latter county.

Carlow is a small inland county; it has some good grazing land, and is somewhat noted for its butter. *Carlow* is its chief town. *Wexford* is the most southerly county of the province, and produces fine crops of barley, and manufactures some woollen goods. Its ports are *Wexford* and *New Ross*.

LESSON XXV.

NORTH-WESTERN DISTRICT.—CONNAUGHT.

Counties included :—LEITRIM, ROSCOMMON, SLIGO, MAYO, and GALWAY. Area, 6,960 square miles.

CONNAUGHT, which was one of the kingdoms of the *Irish Pentarchy*, enjoyed a comparative independence until the reign of Elizabeth. It is smaller than either of the other provinces, and contains a population but little exceeding one million, being less than half that of Ulster. The Irish language is still known and spoken by many of the inhabitants.

The province contains a large amount of mountain land, chiefly near the coast, which in many parts terminates abruptly, thus forming cliffs and bold headlands. Some fishing is carried on off the coasts, but it is capable of great improvement and extension.

The rivers mostly rise in these elevated lands; the longer ones flow eastward and fall into the lakes of the interior, or become tributary to the Shannon, but a greater number have a short and rapid course westward, and fall into the Atlantic Ocean. There are extensive bog lands of considerable elevation in this province.

Leitrim has a small amount of coast bordering on *Donegal Bay*, but is mainly an agricultural county,

having, however, nearly one-third of its surface bog or otherwise unprofitable land. It raises potatoes, oats, and flax, on the richer land ; while the poorer soils supply pasture for cattle. Its chief town is *Carrick-en-Shannon*.

Roscommon is a somewhat larger inland county ; it is generally flat, and contains some most luxuriant pasturage. Iron and coal exist in the northern part of the county, but they are not much worked. The Shannon forms the eastern boundary of the county, flowing through *Lough Allen* and *Lough Ree* in its course, while the *Suck* falls into it on its right bank.

Sligo is bounded on the north by the Atlantic ; having *Sligo Bay*, which receives the river *Sligo*, and *Killala Bay*, as its principal inlets. There is a considerable amount of mountain and bog land, but it contains also some fertile arable and pasture lands. It produces and exports large quantities of pigs, cattle, butter, oats, and meal. *Sligo* is its principal town.

Mayo has an extensive and deeply indented coast, which is thickly studded with islands, of which the chief is *Achil Island*. The land is mountainous, more than half of its area being incapable of cultivation.

The labouring population are extremely poor, living

in mud cabins with thatched roofs (although slate is abundant); their pigs, cows, and poultry, when they possess them, sharing the one room in common with the human tenants. Many of these labourers leave their homes during the summer and autumn, when they cross to England or Scotland, to assist in the harvest work of these more favoured parts of the empire.

The capital is *Castlebar*. *Galway*, the most southern county of Connaught, is wild and mountainous near the coast. The climate, as in the west of Ireland generally, is mild but very moist. *Lough Mask* and *Lough Corrib*, an inlet from Galway Bay, are the chief inland waters. The south-western portion of the county is known as *Connemara*, and is extremely wild and romantic. *Cliefden* is the largest town of this part.

Galway, on the Bay of Galway, is the county town, and is now a rising port, having railway communication with Dublin, as well as being an American packet station. It has also one of the three Queen's Colleges established in Ireland. Many of the towns in these western parts of Ireland greatly resemble some of the ancient towns of Belgium and France.

LESSON XXVI.

SOUTH-WESTERN DISTRICT.—MUNSTER.

Counties included :—CLARE, LIMERICK, KERRY, TIPPERARY, WATERFORD, and CORK. Area, 9,470 miles.

MUNSTER contains a larger area than either of the preceding provinces. It is generally mountainous, more particularly on the south and west. The chief ranges are the *Knockmeledown* and the *Galtee* mountains, toward the east; and the *Mangerton* and *Dunkerron* mountains, as well as *Mac Gillicuddy's Reeks*, which are the highest points in Ireland, toward the west.

Most of the rivers of the district have a south-easterly course, and flow into the Atlantic Ocean. Thus, the *Swir* drains Tipperary, and flows into the Waterford Harbour; the *Blackwater*, after draining the northern part of Cork county, discharges itself into *Youghall* Harbour; while the *Lee* falls into *Cork* Harbour, and the *Bandon* into *Kinsale Harbour*.

The *Shannon*, whose course has been already referred to, partly belongs to this province, forming the boundary between Clare and Limerick, when it falls by a fine and broad estuary into the Atlantic Ocean. The entire length of the river, including this estuary, is 224 miles. Its general course is south-west, and has been made navigable to Lough Allen.

Tralee Bay, Dingle Bay, Kenmare River, and Bantry Bay, are all ocean inlets on the south-west, and receive the waters of the smaller streams and rivers of Kerry and Cork.

County Clare, is very similar in aspect, products, and population, to the neighbouring province of Connaught, with which it was at one time connected. It contains some very rich grazing lands; and the peasants' huts are built of stone, which is very plentiful, instead of mud. The chief towns are *Ennis*, on the river Fergus, *Kilrush*, on the Shannon, and *Killaloe*, on the southern extremity of *Lough Derg*.

Limerick County contains much fertile land, a large tract of which has been termed the "*Golden Vale*." Some of the best cattle in the empire are fattened in this county. Its chief rivers are the *Maig* and the *Deel*.

Its chief town and port is *Limerick*, which has a considerable export trade, having communication, by means of the Shannon, with most of the central counties of Ireland. The city is beautifully situated on the Shannon, and carries on the manufacture of lace and gloves. In 1691 the *Treaty of Limerick* ended the struggle between James II. and William III.

Kerry is one of the wildest, most rugged, and mountainous of all the Irish counties. It contains *Carn*

Tual, one of the *Mac Gillicuddy's Reeks*, which is 3,404 feet above the sea, being the highest mountain in Ireland. It contains some good grazing and corn land ; and the Kerry cow is noted for its large supply of milk. This county contains the beautiful *Lakes of Killarney*, a group of three very irregularly formed lakes ; their banks and islands are of the most rich and varied character, many of the latter appear as fairy bowers floating on the waters ; while above the rich verdure of the banks, the mountains rise in the utmost majesty and beauty, and amid their highest crags the eagle builds her eyry. *Tralee* and *Killarney* are the chief towns.

The county *Tipperary* contains extensive and fertile plains, but by a bad system of management, common to many parts of Ireland, the land is so constantly cropped with potatoes and corn that it becomes used out. It has also some fine pasture lands. The labouring population are extremely poor, ill-fed, and badly housed ; and law is perhaps less respected here than in any part of the empire.

Clonmel is the capital of the county, but *Tipperary*, *Carrick-on-Suir*, *Cashel*, and *Thurles* are all places of note and interest. The *Suir*, after leaving Tipperary, forms the northern boundary of *Waterford*, which has

the Atlantic for its southern limit. It is the principal dairy county in Ireland, having some excellent grazing land.

Waterford, its capital, is one of the chief Irish ports, shipping large quantities of various kinds of provisions to Bristol and other English ports. *Dungarvon* and *Lismore* are the other towns.

Cork, the largest county of Ireland, contains some rugged and barren mountain land toward the north-west, while on the north-east it is undulating and very fertile. Wheat, oats, and potatoes, are raised.

The city of *Cork* is finely situated at the mouth of the Lee. Its *harbour* is one of the most safe and beautiful in the empire. The city is large, and contains one of the Queen's Colleges, as well as many other good public buildings. It exports butter, bacon, and other native produce of Ireland.

Youghal, *Bandon*, *Kinsale*, and *Mallow*, are towns of some size and importance.

LESSON XXVII.

BRITISH INDIA.

Area, 1,290,000 square miles.—Population, 165,000,000.

In the year 1599 a company was formed in London for the purpose of carrying on trade with India, which was

then known to be a very rich, populous, and extensive country; and for security in their adventure, they obtained a charter of incorporation from Queen Elizabeth.

The "*East India Company*" first set up a *factory*, or trading place, at *Surat*, on the western coast of India, and then others at *Bombay*, *Madras*, and *Calcutta*. In 1624 the Company obtained power to govern its own servants in India, and subsequently took part in various quarrels with the native princes, which generally ended in the increased power of the Company.

Besides these *English* factories, the *French*, *Dutch*, and *Portuguese*, had similar ones on various parts of the coast. On the declaration of war between England and France, in 1744, hostilities were carried on in India, mainly by these powers espousing different sides in the struggles of the native rulers.

Through the extraordinary military successes of the English, under *Lord Clive* and subsequent governors, the British power has become paramount over nearly the whole of *Hindustan*, a considerable part of *Farther India*, and the island of *Ceylon*. During the year 1859, the power which was formerly exercised by the *Company*, under the crown, was recalled, and is now vested *directly* in the crown. The supreme ruler in India,

who is the representative there of the British Sovereign, is known as the *Governor-General*.

Hindustan is a large peninsula, lying principally within the torrid zone, being bounded by the *Himalaya mountains*, which are the highest range in the world, on the north, and in which are the sources of the rivers *Indus* and *Ganges*. The most southern point of the peninsula is *Cape Comorin*; the eastern, or *Coromandel*, coast is washed by the *Bay of Bengal*; while the western, or *Malabar* coast, is washed by the *Indian Ocean*.

Of the *Himalaya mountains*, which extend 1,500 miles from east to west, the highest peak is *Kunchinjinga*, which exceeds 28,000 feet in height, whose summit, in common with others of the range, is perpetually covered with snow. The other principal mountain ranges are the *East* and *West Ghauts*. The greater part of *Central India* consists of extensive plains.

The *Ganges* has a course of 1,500 miles, and receives the *Jumna*, the *Goyra*, and many other tributaries. The *Indus* is 1,700 miles long, and falls into the Arabian Sea. The valleys of these rivers are extremely fertile, but there is some poor and sterile intermediate lands. The *Nerbudda*, the *Godavery*, and the *Khrisna*, although much smaller than the *Ganges* and *Indus*, are really large and important rivers

The vegetable products of India are mainly those of a tropical climate, the most important being cotton, sugar, opium, fruits, rice, and indigo ; we also obtain gold, silver, copper, tin, iron, as well as diamonds and other precious stones.

The inhabitants are known as *Hindoos*, who, besides cultivating the soil, manufacture some silk goods, shawls, and a variety of ornamental articles in metal, wood, and ivory.

The climate varies much with the elevation and the latitude. On the slopes of the Himalayas are many spots as cool and refreshing as many places in our own country ; while on the southern plains the heat is hardly endurable by Europeans. Tigers, elephants, oxen, boars, bears, jackals, together with parrots and many other animals, are common.

For purposes of government, British India is divided into three *Presidencies* ; that of *Bengal*, of which *Calcutta* is the capital ; *Bombay*, of which the chief town is *Bombay* ; and *Madras*, having *Madras* as its capital.

Calcutta is the seat of the government, and by far the most important city and port of our Indian dominions. It is on the *Hooghley*, one of the mouths of the Ganges. *Delhi*, the ancient capital of the Mogul

empire, and *Benares*, together with *Serampore*, *Patna*, and *Plassy*, are all in the Bengal Presidency.

Bombay is a large port on the Malabar coast, and to its north is *Surat*; while *Hyderabad* is the chief town of the northern province of *Scinde*. The city of *Madras* is on the Coromandel coast, but it has no harbour. *Calicut* and *Goa* are on the same coast.

The island of *Ceylon* also forms part of British India, and exports coffee, oil, spices, &c. Its chief towns are *Colombo* and *Trincomalee*, the latter having one of the finest harbours in Asia. In India, beyond the Ganges, we hold *Assam*, from which tea is obtained, *Aracon*, *Malacca*, *Singapore*, and some smaller provinces and islands; as well as *Hong Kong*, in China, and *Aden*, in Arabia.

LESSON XXVIII.

AMERICAN COLONIES.

Area, 3,250,000 square miles. Total population, 3,700,000.

AMERICA was almost wholly unknown to Europeans until the end of the fifteenth century, when Christopher Columbus, having visited it, brought such accounts of its riches, that adventurers from Spain, Portugal, France, Holland, and England, flocked

to its shores. Thus, a large number of colonies, dependent upon these several states, were established.

The English soon took the lead in this work ; and a century ago they were in possession of nearly the whole eastern sea-board of North America. And, in addition to their own *original settlements*, they acquired, during their war with France, possession of Canada. But in 1783, thirteen of their old colonies succeeded in establishing themselves as the "United States of America."

CANADA lies chiefly within the basin of the river *St. Lawrence*, which, with the lakes *Superior*, *Michigan*, *Huron*, *Erie*, and *Ontario*, forms its southern boundary. The two latter are joined by the river *Niagara*, so noted for its stupendous falls.

The country is generally rich, and well stocked with timber, which is gradually falling before the axe of the colonists. Its climate and productions somewhat resemble our own ; the winter, although rather more severe, is fine, dry, and bracing. Large quantities of wheat, timber, hemp, and flax, are exported to Britain and other countries.

The chief towns of *Lower* or *Eastern Canada* are *Quebec* and *Montreal* ; and those of *Upper* or *Western Canada*, are *Toronto*, *Kingston*, and *Hamilton*.

New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Cape Breton, and Prince Edward's Island, are eastward of Canada, which they greatly resemble in their main physical features. *Frederickton* is the capital, and *St. John* the largest town and port of the former; and *Halifax* is the capital of *Nova Scotia*. *Newfoundland* is a large island, separated from Labrador by the Straits of *Belle Isle*. It was visited by Sebastian Cabot, a native of Bristol, who was sent by Henry VII. to find a north-west sea passage into the Pacific; a problem which, after almost infinite labour and hardship, has recently been solved.

Newfoundland has a rugged coast, abounding in good harbours. Its population, chiefly of Irish descent, being engaged in cod, salmon, herring, and mackerel fisheries. *St. John's* is its chief port.

The *Hudson's Bay Territory* consists of an immense tract of country, which is traversed by agents, who are engaged in obtaining furs from the foxes, otters, martens, ermines, sables, and other fur covered animals, with which the country abounds. *Fort York* is the principal trading station of the Company.

British Guiana is a rich tropical region, on the north coast of South America, from which we obtain

sugar, coffee, cotton, and tobacco. Its capital is *Georgetown*, at the mouth of the *Demerara*. *Honduras* is in *Central America*, having *Belize* as its chief town. The *Falkland Islands* are to the south of South America, from which they are separated by the *Straits of Magellan*.

The *British West India Islands* are in the Atlantic Ocean, between North and South America, and consist of three groups, the *Greater Antilles*, the *Lesser Antilles*, and the *Bahamas*. All have a tropical climate, and produce sugar, cocoa, coffee, cotton, indigo, arrowroot, and various tropical fruits.

The population amounts to 800,000, the majority of whom belong to the negro race. They were in a condition of slavery, but in 1834, by an act of the British Parliament, they were emancipated, at a cost of £20,000,000 sterling.

Jamaica, one of the Greater Antilles, is the chief island, the capital of which is *Kingston*, on its southern coast. The Lesser Antilles stretch in an arc, having *Trinidad*, near the coast of Venezuela, and the *Virgin Islands*, at its extremities. The chief intermediate islands being *Tobago*, *Barbadoes*, and *Dominica*. The *Bahamas* are north-east of Cuba, and have a more mild climate than the other West Indian Islands.

LESSON XXIX.

COLONIES.

In Europe:—CHANNEL ISLANDS, HELIGOLAND, GIBRALTAR, MALTA, and IONIAN ISLANDS.

In Africa:—WESTERN COAST SETTLEMENTS, CAPE COLONY, and NATAL. **Islands:—**ASCENSION, ST. HELENA, and MAURITIUS.

In Australia, &c.:—NEW SOUTH WALES, VICTORIA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, TASMANIA, NORFOLK ISLAND, NEW ZEALAND, and AUCKLAND ISLANDS.

Area, 3,345,000 square miles.

THE *Channel Islands* consist of *Jersey*, *Guernsey*, *Alderney*, and *Sark*, and are situated in the English Channel, near the coast of France. They formed part of the dominions of William the Conqueror, prior to his conquest of England, and have remained ever since under British government. The laws, customs, and, to some extent, the language of the population, still retain much of their original Norman French character. The islands are generally fertile. *St. Helier*, in Jersey, is the chief town.

Gibraltar, which was taken from the Spaniards in 1704, and the island of *Malta*, in the Mediterranean, which was obtained in 1800, are principally valued as strong military positions. The *Ionian Islands*, of which *Cephalonia*, *Corfu*, and *Zante*, are the most important, produce large quantities of currants and other

fruits They contain mainly a Greek population, having a modified republican government, under the protection of the English crown. *Heligoland*, off the coast of Denmark, is mainly known as a fishing station.

In *Western Africa* our settlements consist of those on the *Gambia*, of which *Bathurst* is the chief town, *Sierra Leone*; and those of the *Gold Coast*, all of which have an excessively hot and unhealthy climate. We obtain from them ivory, palm oil, hides, bees'-wax, and some small quantities of gold.

Cape Colony, in *South Africa*, is a much larger territory. It is inhabited by *Boors*, or descendents of the original Dutch colonists, and *Hottentots*, as well as by British settlers. It contains good grazing and corn lands, and exports corn, wool, and hides. *Natal* is somewhat warmer than Cape Colony, producing cotton, indigo, sugar, and fruits.

The islands of *Ascension* and *St. Helena*, to the west of Africa, are useful naval stations; while the *Mauritius*, on the east of that continent, is a rich and fertile island, from which we obtain sugar and fruits.

The island, or, as it might perhaps more justly be called, the continent of *Austratia*, was visited in the early part of the seventeenth century by the Dutch, who called it New Holland. In 1770 it was visited by

Captain Cook ; and in 1787, the English, who had then recently lost their American penal settlements, despatched their convicts to *Botany Bay*, on its south-west coast.

The mild and healthy climate, together with the extreme fertility of the soil, soon drew free emigrants, who formed several settlements along the southern coast.

The principal animals of Australia are peculiar to the island, and consist of kangaroos, opossums, porcupines, and the dingo, or native dog. The trees are nearly all evergreen, and supply plenty of good hard timber. The grass lands are most extensive, affording herbage for an indefinite supply of sheep and cattle, from which we obtain large quantities of wool, tallow, and hides.

The *Murray River* drains the south-eastern part of the island, its chief tributaries being the *Darling*, the *Macquarie*, and the *Lachlan*, which have their rise in the *Australian Alps* and *Blue Mountains*.

New South Wales contains twenty-six counties. In the neighbourhood of *Moreton Bay*, in the north, cotton, sugar, fruits, and tobacco, are raised. The capital, *Sydney*, has a fine harbour.

Victoria, or *Port Philip*, lies to the south of New South Wales, and is rapidly rising in wealth and importance. Its capital, *Melbourne*, has already be-

come a large and even a magnificent city, having its churches, chapels, schools, gas-works, railroads, &c. *Ballarat* and *Mount Alexander* have a large population engaged in gold digging and washing. *Port Philip* is the best shipping port of the colony.

South Australia lies to the west of the two preceding colonies. Its capital, is *Adelaide*, a rapidly increasing town. *Western Australia* is a less important colony : *Perth*, on the *Swan River*, is its chief town. These colonies are governed by their own Parliament, some members being chosen by the colonists, and others by the governor, acting on behalf of the British Sovereign.

Tasmania, or *Van Dieman's Land*, is separated from Australia by *Bass's Straits*. It is a fertile land. The chief towns are *Hobart Town* and *Launceston*.

New Zealand consists of two principal islands, *New Ulster* and *New Munster*, which are separated by *Cook's Strait*. *Auckland*, the capital, is in the former, and *Canterbury* is the chief town of the latter. The climate is mild and healthy, the land fertile, and the coasts have some excellent harbours ; so that New Zealand promises to become a very flourishing colony.

Norfolk Island is a penal settlement, and the *Auckland Islands* are chiefly used as a station for ships engaged in the whale fishery.

QUESTIONS.

These questions should be answered in writing. The Teacher will also require maps of the countries, river basins, and counties, to be drawn as test exercises.

LESSON I.—1. How are the British Islands situated as regards Europe? 2. Name the British dependencies and settlements in Europe, Africa, Asia, America, and Australia. 3. How has this empire attained its present size and importance? 4. What advantages arise from the great extent and wide range of the empire? 5. Give the general dimensions of Great Britain. 6. What are its chief mountain ranges?

LESSON II.—1. What is meant by the *basin* of a river? 2. What counties are *wholly* and what counties *partly* included in the basin of the Thames? 3. Give the direction and general course of the Thames. 4. What is the industrial character of the population of this river basin? 5. Describe the sources of the Thames, and its tributaries that are in Gloucestershire.

LESSON III.—1. Name and describe the tributaries of the Thames flowing through Oxon. 2. What are the chief towns of the county? 3. What sort of city is Oxford, and for what is it noted? 4. Describe the county of Wilts. 5. Name its chief towns. 6. Through what vale does the Ock flow, and for what is it remarkable? 7. What are the towns of Berks?

LESSON IV.—1. What tributaries flow through Bucks and Herts, and name the chief towns of each? 2. Describe Middlesex as a county. 3. What is the present population of London? 4. Name some of its chief features. 5. What advantages for commerce does it possess? 6. Name in order the tributaries, and chief towns of Surrey, Essex, and Kent.

LESSON V.—1. What counties form the basin of the Severn, and what is its area? 2. Describe the course of the Severn.

3. What peculiarity is there in the tides of this river? 4. What sort of county is Shropshire, and name its chief towns? 5. Name the hills, vales, and towns of Worcestershire.

LESSON VI.—1. What tributary of the Severn flows through Worcestershire? 2. Describe Birmingham and Bristol, and show wherein they agree, and wherein they differ. 3. What towns of Gloucestershire are within the basin of the Severn? 4. Trace the course of the Wye, and name the towns on its banks. 5. What sort of county is Somerset, and what are its most noted towns?

LESSON VII.—1. Give a general description of the South Coast. 2. Name the counties, and county towns, going westward. 3. What are the chief ports of this district, and how are they severally situated? 4. Describe the Isle of Wight. 5. What minerals are obtained in Dorsetshire? 6. Name the chief rivers of Devonshire. 7. What industrial pursuits are carried on in Devon and Cornwall severally?

LESSON VIII.—1. What is the area of the basin of the Great Ouse, and describe its course? 2. What are the industrial features of Northamptonshire? 3. In what counties are Naseby, Bedford, Huntingdon, and Norwich, and for what is each noted? 4. Name the chief *wheat* counties of the district. 5. Describe the county of Cambridge, and its chief town. 6. What are the distinguishing features of Norfolk and Suffolk?

LESSON IX.—1. Describe the course of the Trent, and its main tributaries. 2. What manufacturing districts are in this river basin, and account for their being so situated? 3. Describe the district known as the "Potteries." 4. For what is Derbyshire most noted? 5. What distinguishes the following towns:—Leicester, Bosworth, Lutterworth, Lichfield, and Mansfield? 6. Where was Sherwood Forest?

LESSON X.—1. Compare the counties of Lincoln and Chester, as regards their physical features. 2. What are the chief natural products of each? 3. Name the ports of Lincolnshire. 4. Why is Cheshire sometimes called the "Vale Royal of England"?

5. How is Chester situated, and what are its peculiarities? 6. What are the chief towns of Cheshire?

LESSON XI.—Describe the Pennine mountain chain, and what is its main influence upon the neighbouring counties? 2. What coal fields are in this district, and what towns are situated on them? 3. Name the ports of this district. 4. How is Yorkshire divided? 5. What rivers flow into the Humber? 5. Describe the chief manufacturing seats of Yorkshire.

LESSON XII.—1. Name the chief rivers of the north-western district. 2. Where are its coal fields, and what relation do they bear to the manufacturing districts? 3. How are the following towns situated, and for what noted:—Carlisle, Preston, Lancaster, Ambleside, Whitehaven, and Keswick? 4. Describe the *Lake District*. 5. What sort of a port is Liverpool? 6. Describe the cotton district of Lancashire.

LESSON XIII.—1. Name the counties in North Wales, with their chief towns. 2. Describe the chief features of the coast. 3. What is meant by the *Marches of Wales*, and state why so called? 4. Describe the mountains of this district. 5. Name the minerals of North Wales, and where found. 6. State something about each of these towns:—Llangollen, Holywell, Bangor, Newtown, and Ruabon.

LESSON XIV.—1. Enumerate the counties of South Wales. 2. What are the chief mountains and rivers of the district? 3. Describe the chief employments of the population. 4. Give the leading features of the following ports:—Milford, Pembroke, Swansea, and Cardiff. 6. Describe the South Wales coal field.

LESSON XV.—1. Give the main dimensions of Scotland and how is it divided? 2. Compare Scotland with England in its general aspect. 3. How may the Highlands be distinguished from the Lowlands? 4. Where is coal chiefly obtained? 5. What are the chief employments of the people, and what the gross population?

LESSON XVI.—1. What counties form the basin of the Tweed,

and describe the course of this river with its tributaries? 2. What is the character of the soil, and how is it cultivated? 3. Where are the following towns, and for what noted:—Peebles, Kelso, Melrose, Haddington, Abbotsford, and Berwick? 4. Describe the coast of this district.

Lesson XVII.—1. What are the chief features of the river Forth? 2. Describe its basin as regards its natural features. 3. How is Sterling situated, and state what you know of the town and its neighbourhood? 4. Give the situation, and some fact connected with each of the following places:—Carron, Alloa, Loch Leven, and Linlithgow. 5. Describe the city of Edinburgh.

Lesson XVIII.—1. What is included in the basin of the Clyde? 2. Name the chief minerals of this district. 3. Describe the Clyde. 4. How is Glasgow situated, and give the chief sources of its wealth? 5. What manufactures are carried on in this district? 6. Name the chief features of Argyleshire.

Lesson XIX.—1. Describe the north-western coast of Scotland. 2. What are the rivers of the district, and what course do they generally take? 3. Name the chief agricultural produce of the counties of this district. 4. Name the chief towns of Ayr, and state some fact connected with each.

Lesson XX.—1. Describe the course of the Tay, and for what is this river most noted? 2. Name the chief elevations of this district. 3. Describe the county of Perth and its chief town. 4. What scenes in this district have been described by Sir. W. Scott? 5. Where are the following places, and for what noted:—Dunkeld, Aberdeen, Ballater, Montrose, BenMacdhu?

Lesson XXI.—1. Name the counties of Scotland north of the Grampians. 2. What natural waters are joined by the Caledonian Canal? 3. Name and describe the rivers of the Northern Highlands. 4. Describe the counties on the southern bank of the Moray Firth. 5. Illustrate the improved condition of Scotland. 6. Name and describe the chief islands of Scotland.

LESSON XXII.—1. What are the leading dimensions of Ireland, and how is it divided? 2. By what names has the country been known in past times? 3. Compare Ireland with Great Britain in respect of size, soil, and population. 4. How are the mountains distributed over the island? 5. Name and describe the chief lakes and rivers. 6. What is its population?

LESSON XXIII.—1. Name the counties of Ulster, with their county towns. 2. What are the chief mountains of the province, and how are they situated? 3. Trace the course of the rivers Foyle, Bann, and Lagan. 4. What are the principal products of Ulster? 5. Describe the chief objects of interest in the province. 6. Name the chief ports in the order of their importance.

LESSON XXIV.—1. How is Leinster situated, give its area and the counties included? 2. Give a brief description of the leading features of Leinster. 3. Name its chief towns, and state what county each town is in, and give an additional fact relating to each. 4. Describe the city of Dublin. 5. What circumstances make Wicklow an important and interesting county? 6. Name the ports of Leinster, and characterize their trade.

LESSON XXV.—1. Give the leading dimensions of Connaught, and name its counties, with their chief towns. 2. Describe the water system of Connaught; or, where the rivers rise, and how they flow. 3. What is the character of the coast? 4. What industrial pursuits are carried on in the province? 5. Name the chief towns of Connaught, and state what you know of each.

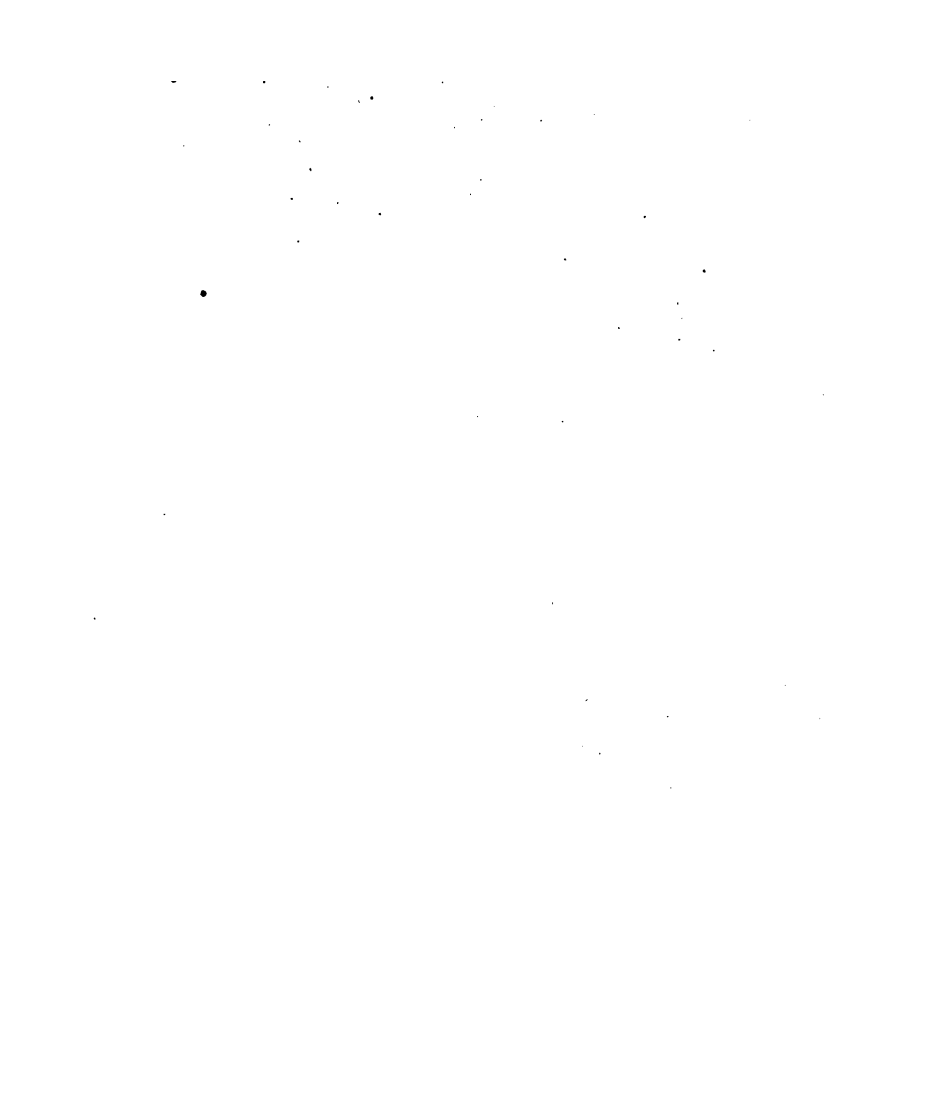
LESSON XXVI.—1. What is the relative size of Munster, and name the counties included? 2. Describe its inland waters. 3. What is the character of its coast, and name the principal capes and bays? 4. How is Limerick situated, and for what noted? 5. Describe Kerry county. 6. What are the chief industrial pursuits of Munster? 7. Name the ports in the order of their importance.

LESSON XXVII.—1. Give the area and population of British India. 2. How have the British acquired their extensive In-

dian possessions? 3. How are the British possessions in India divided, and what government is adopted? 4. Describe the climate, and leading animal, vegetable, and mineral products of India. 5. Name the leading mountains and rivers. 6. Name the most important towns of British India.

LESSON XXVIII.—1. Name the colonies of North America, South America, the West Indies. 2. When and how did the American colonies first arise? 3. Describe the leading features of Canada. 4. Name the other North American possessions, and what is obtained from each. 5. Name the principal West Indian islands belonging to Britain. 6. Give the position of the following parts, and state the leading articles of export in each —Georgetown, St John, St. John's, Quebec, and Kingston.

LESSON XXIX.—1. What are the British dependencies in Europe, Africa, and Oceania? 2. Name the Channel Islands, and give their chief town. 3. How did Britain become possessed of the Channel Islands, Gibraltar, and Cape Colony? 4. What articles do we import from the African settlements? 5. Describe Australia, and what are its great sources of wealth? 6. How is Australia divided, and what are its chief towns? 7. Why may New Zealand be expected to become a flourishing colony?



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